

# ASWAC

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee

JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER 1989  
Volume 10, Number 4



**INSIDE:**  
**Women Against Poverty Public Hearings**



## 1988/89 Board Members

Annette Aarbo - Edmonton  
 Noreen Bell-Geekle - Edmonton  
 Marla Seeber - Edmonton  
 Jane Haslett - Edmonton  
 Helen Greaves - c/o Edmonton Office  
 Shelley Scott - c/o Edmonton Office  
 Jean Munn - Calgary  
 Marilyn Seelye - Calgary  
 Jacqueline Preyde - Calgary  
 Anne McGrath - c/o Calgary Office  
 Nancy Miller - Calgary  
 Debbie Foster - Lethbridge  
 Rita Kolpak - c/o Lethbridge Office

## 1988/89 Regional Representatives

Elaine Peters - Calgary  
 285-1214

Addie Miron - Lethbridge  
 327-4396

Lois Soderstrom - Westeros  
 586-2091

Gerry Bailey - Westeros  
 586-2983

Joan White Calf - Camrose  
 672-6687

Kathleen Davies - Edmonton  
 438-5480

Lori Crocker - Innisfail  
 227-1141

Ellen Harley Barlem - Innisfail  
 227-2927

\*All numbers are home phone numbers.

The Alberta Status of Women Action Committee gratefully acknowledges the financial support it receives from the Secretary of State Women's Program.

ASWAC's mailing address is: Box 1573, Edmonton, T5J 2N7. The Edmonton office is located at 9930 - 106 Street, on the lower floor with the rest of the Edmonton Women's Building. Phone 421-0306. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ASWAC Lethbridge is located in the Women's Resource Centre on top of Woolworths, at #202, 325 - 6 Street South, T1J 2C7. Phone 329-8338.

The Calgary ASWAC office is located in the Old Y Centre for Community Organizations, #303, 223 - 12 Avenue S.W., T2R 0G9. Phone 233-0731 for recorded information and to leave messages.

Since April, ASWAC has gratefully received donations from the following wonderful women: Janet Maher, Mary Johnson, Evelyn Stymest, H.L. Murray, Pam Barrett, Elaine Filax, Sylvia Waller, Adena Rose, Anne Dobbie, Diana Chown, Katharine Hunt, Mufty Mathewson, Debra Shogan and Marilyn Assheton-Smith. Thank-you! And a special thanks to Denise Purcell, who has been re-organizing the library in the Edmonton office.

The ASWAC Newsletter is produced in Edmonton by the Newsletter Collective, with contributions from across the province. Feedback, input and suggestions in the form of ideas for articles, graphics, and especially notices of events that are happening in your area would be very much appreciated.

Here are the deadlines for upcoming newsletters:  
 July/August Newsletter - Deadline: Monday, July 17  
 September/October Newsletter - Deadline: Tuesday, September 5

The deadline means that the item must be in the Edmonton ASWAC office on that day; if items can be sent in earlier, it would be appreciated.

Thanks to all contributors, and to the *Newsmagazine* by Alberta Women collective and Nola Erhardt for typesetting and layout, and to Central Web for printing.

Cover illustration by Sylvia Matishak

# ASWAC BOARD MEETS IN LETHBRIDGE

*Please note:* Members are reminded they are welcome to attend board meetings in their area. Upcoming meetings are: July 8-9 in Pigeon Lake and September 9-10 in Edmonton. Don't forget the ASWAC Annual Assembly, October 14-15 in Lethbridge.

*In attendance:* Shelley, Helen, Annette, Noreen, Jane, Jean, Anne, Marilyn, Jackie, Nancy, Rita (board); Diane Shaver Wazny (Women Against Poverty (WAP) hearings co-ordinator); Linda Cumming (WAP Edmonton researcher); Allison Cameron, Terri Ann Marco (community members). *Missing:* Maria, Debbie.

## Saturday, May 27

**1) ROUND** - Among other topics, it was mentioned that Nancy in Calgary and Maria in Edmonton are still trying to get the Feminist: More Than A Label TV commercial aired.

Phyllis Jackson has notified the board that she is resigning for personal reasons. Jane will write her a letter in response.

**2) WAP HEARINGS** - Diane gave a report on the progress of the June hearings; a number of specific matters were also addressed:

a) Although none of the presenters are being paid in any way, one woman has requested \$20 for gas money. It was agreed she would be given the money because of her exceptional circumstances.

b) Diane has developed a questionnaire for use at the hearings. The questionnaire will encourage women to become members, and also to indicate if they are interested in further involvement with the WAP campaign -- this information will be added to the computer by the Membership Committee.

c) ACCESS Network has a good series of videos called *About Women*. Diane will write and ask if they will donate them to ASWAC.

d) Diane will compile a final report at the end of June and present it to the last meeting of the WAP Provincial Committee. If she is around in September, she will continue to be involved with the second set of poverty hearings.

**3) WAP EDMONTON RESEARCHER** - Linda Cumming has been hired to do research for the WAP Edmonton Committee; Linda talked about her work so far and the need for another, re-organized fact sheet. The board emphasized that projects undertaken should be ones that don't require a lot of money.

We also discussed the philosophical approach and grounding assumptions behind doing research; Anne

suggested Linda read the Vancouver Research Centre's Women and Economy Kit.

Linda will be working out a time-line for her activities during the next four months. (She has been hired under a Student Temporary Employment Project (STEP) grant.)

**4) WEN-DO** - Debbie Foster sent a letter to the board requesting we sponsor her for a Wen-Do training course in Toronto. Her request was turned down, as it was felt it does not fall within our mandate.

**5) LETTER FROM GERRY BAILEY** - A letter was sent to the board from Gerry Bailey, expressing concerns about ASWAC's membership and structure. Jane will write a letter to Gerry in response.

**6) OTHER ITEMS** - Anne will be submitting a brief on behalf of ASWAC to the Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs Landlord/Tenant Act Ministerial Advisory Committee. The brief will deal with tenancy issues like rent controls, second stage housing, discrimination, sexual harassment, etc.

Anne also suggested we look at applying for special funding to update our publication *When Your Dollar Is Not A Dollar -- The Pay Equity Debate*.

A course on Strategies for Effective Social Research is



Illustration by Leslie Stewart



Illustration by Leslie Stewart

being offered by Mount Royal College in Calgary; we will take \$105 from the refund we received from the Canadian Mental Health Association so Anne can take this course.

#### 7) BUDGET -

Annette outlined the cuts that have been made: we applied for \$130,000 and have been given \$97,750. Cuts have been made down to \$106,000, so another \$8,500 needs to be cut.

We talked about

how much surplus we have at this time, and if we want to ensure we have this same amount of surplus at this time next year. Fiona told us we have enough to cover June, but expenses for July will have to come from the general account. We also discussed the need to have a "global" budget, one that will look ahead to the next three years.

Terri Ann offered the suggestion that we make the newsletter self-supporting, selling subscriptions at around \$15 each.

We went through the Secretary of State budget (the one that gets submitted but is not binding), circled all the items that are not negotiable, and then cut 25 per cent off all other items. Marilyn and Jean abstained from this decision.

We then went through our working budget, particularly looking at number of staff and staff salaries. We decided to go with two and a half staff positions at the salary level of this present working budget.

The budget will be considered as it is now (adding up to \$106,000), plus \$5,000 for staff benefits, \$3,000 for bookkeeper's salary, \$400 for hearings co-ordinator benefits (Canada Pension Plan and Unemployment Insurance premiums) and \$2,464 to top up the STEP position. The Budget Committee will decide how much will be cut from all other items and how much can be absorbed by the general account.

The Budget Committee is Annette, Jane and Shelley with Marilyn as a consultant. The Budget Committee will make their recommendations to the next (July) board meeting.

**8) FUNDRAISING** - A Fundraising Committee was struck to prepare a plan for fundraising activities: Anne, Jackle, Nancy and another Calgary community member.

Terri Ann will act as a consultant.

It was also mentioned that, at all the WAP hearings, participants should be encouraged to become members and/or make donations, and that ASWAC's financial status be clarified.

#### 9) LETHBRIDGE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -

Lethbridge held an AGM on May 24, which resulted in the formation of a core co-ordinating committee made up of Rita, Terri Ann, Alison Cameron, Faye Bayko, Shirley Clement and Jackle Preyde. They will be responsible for communication, administration and finances. Other working groups will be formed to deal with specific projects, and a rep from each working group will meet with the core group once a month. It was felt that the previous grassroots structure had lacked continuity.

Lethbridge wants to continue as part of ASWAC, and will encourage Lethbridge participants to become ASWAC members through a mailout.

In the original agreement between Lethbridge and the board, there was no formal discussion of staff, but that decisions would be made collectively. Perhaps, in the future, hiring committees for Lethbridge should include a board rep.

Terri Ann talked about the origins of the Lethbridge group arising out of a desire to decentralize ASWAC, how the "Lethbridge model" was the original method of achieving decentralization, and how the opening of a Calgary outreach office had been a later method. She explained that the Lethbridge Women's Resource Centre provides services to the community, while ASWAC is the more political wing, but that the two halves function interdependently.

Lethbridge is not asking for any funds from the provincial budget at present. They will soon be submitting an application to Secretary of State, which will likely include a staff position.

#### 10) ASWAC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY -

Helen reported on the Assembly Committee meeting held on Friday (see following article).

#### Sunday, May 28

**1) PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** - Jane talked about the Personnel Committee meeting on May 23. The function of the committee will be to look at job descriptions, evaluations, working conditions, grievances, reporting, accountability, salaries and benefits, and time management. It will be made up of three staff and three volunteer board members.

A sub-committee of the Personnel Committee will be a Negotiating Committee; they will work out a collective agreement to be signed at the July board meeting and which will serve until the AGM. If, at some time, there were less than two staff, a board member could be selected as

staff advocate. Also, an outside conciliator can be called in if needed.

The committee will meet in June to work on job descriptions and evaluations.

This will be a standing committee and will be written into the bylaws.

A member of the Budget Committee should also be on the Personnel Committee.

The committee was reconstituted as Helen, Anne, Shelley, Jean, Jane and Annette; the Negotiating Committee is Helen, Anne, Jean and Jane.

Nancy got the Personnel Policy of the Saskatchewan Action Committee; we also have one from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) and the Development Education Co-ordinating Council of Alberta.

The issue of staff being on the board (as raised in the last newsletter) will be dealt with by the committee for the next board meeting.

### Vacations

Helen is unsure yet of when she is taking holidays; probably August.

Anne has 18 days and will take them in July.

Shelley has 15 days, but requested that, since she is leaving soon, she be allowed to take vacation pay instead. Due to budget considerations and other factors, it was decided that she will take one week (five days) of vacation and receive vacation pay for the other ten days. It was noted that this is an exceptional circumstance and that, in general, staff will be strongly encouraged to take all their vacation time.

It was noted that the two project co-ordinators should not both be gone from work for long periods at the same time.

### Other Staff Matters

It was noted that if, at the July board meeting, the Budget Committee was to recommend any staff layoffs, a Parity Committee would have to be struck to review that decision. This is in accordance with the Personnel Policy.

Some things were clarified regarding hiring practices. During the hiring for the hearings

co-ordinator position, it was stated that board members must resign before applying; Marilyn did not apply. This was incorrect however, as the Personnel Policy states that board members can apply for positions without resigning, but cannot be present during any discussion of the hiring. An error was made.

Noreen was originally on the Hiring Committee for the administrative co-ordinator position, as it was constituted at the April 1 board meeting. She made her intention to apply for the position known on April 14 and was replaced on the committee; no discussion of the hiring had taken place before the 14th and she has been completely excluded from all discussions since, so there has been no conflict of interest.

**2) NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE** - Helen, Rita and Anne reported on their experiences at the NAC AGM. One topic of discussion at the AGM was increased regional involvement through participation on NAC issue committees and in political actions. Two such actions are:

- June 4 Bake-Off to protest child care cuts. Rita is organizing the sending of baked goods to Michael Wilson from Lethbridge, Nancy will organize something in Calgary and Noreen is co-ordinating in Edmonton.

- June 5 Welcoming Committee in Edmonton for the Via Rail De-Rail The Budget Train. Shelley and Helen, along with a newly-formed coalition on economic justice, are organizing an event for 7 p.m.

Women from Calgary will join us, and a support action in Lethbridge may take place.

One part of the action will be the building of a quilt; a quilter on board the train will collect a quilt square from each province depicting one aspect of the budget, and will have a finished quilt ready for the final rally in Ottawa June 12.

**3) BY-LAWS** - Jean told us about changes to the bylaws she and Anne are proposing. They will be printed in the July newsletter in order to give the membership sufficient notice before the AGM.

Bylaws must be passed by a 75 per cent in favor vote.

**4) LE THEATRE PARMINOU** - Jackie told us that the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee wants to bring this theatre company to Calgary to do a show; they're looking for groups to provide funding through a small loan, which will be paid back either through profits from the show or fundraising. Any additional profits would go to a pay equity workshop.

The Calgary board members are having a meeting soon, and they will discuss ASWAC's participation in this plan.

**The next board meeting will be July 8-9 at Gerry Bailey's home in Pigeon Lake.**



Illustration by Leslie Stewart

# Schedule Decided For ASWAC Assembly

The Assembly Committee of ASWAC met Friday, May 26 at 4 p.m. in Lethbridge.

*In attendance:* Board: Rita Kolpak, Jackie Preyde, Shelley Scott, Helen Greaves, Anne McGrath; Community Members: Allison Cameron, Shirley Clement; Researcher: Linda Cumming.

Helen explained that any Lethbridge women who would like to be on this committee and/or work with it are more than welcome. ASWAC wants a very high level of community involvement with the assembly.

Helen, Shelley and Linda toured the El Rancho prior to the meeting and found that it meets our needs. Subsequent to reviewing information about prices, etc., Helen will book the necessary facilities.

## Tentative Schedule for Assembly:

### Friday, October 13

Registration will be ongoing. All Friday events are free and open to the public.

8 to 9:30 p.m. -- Public forum on Feminism and the Family.  
9:30 - 12 midnight -- Social. Potluck desserts, coffee and taped music. Possible co-sponsor is Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

### Saturday, October 14

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. -- Breakfast.

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. -- Four concurrent workshops: Native Women and the Criminal Justice System and the Child Welfare Act; Rural Women and Child Care; Immigrant Women; and The Right Response -- Fighting the New Right.

11:30 - 12 noon -- Break. Children have lunch.

12 - 1 p.m. -- Lunch.

1 - 5 p.m. -- Membership meeting (with a 20 minute break).

5 - 6:30 p.m. -- Break. Children have dinner, caucus meeting (registration will include definition of caucus). National Action Committee on the Status of Women regional meeting.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. -- Dinner.

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. -- Keynote speaker (same speaker as Friday). Topic: coalitions.

8:30 -- Multicultural Concert.

### Sunday, October 15

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. -- Breakfast.

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. -- Membership meeting, board and regional representatives selection.

11:30 - 12 noon -- Wrap-up.

12 - 1 p.m. -- Lunch.

1 p.m. -- New board and regional representatives meet.

At the ASWAC Board Meeting on May 27 and 28, several points about the assembly were raised:

1. The Insight Women's Film and Video Festival in Edmonton is on that same weekend. We changed our dates last year to avoid a conflict; Noreen Bell-Geekie (board member) will write and ask them to change their dates. It was agreed we will not change ours.

2. It was suggested we rent a bus to transport women from Edmonton and further north down to Lethbridge.

3. Le Theatre Parminou, a theatre company from Quebec, will be starting an Alberta tour on October 16. We may be able to get them to start on the 14th and provide our entertainment for Saturday night.

## Committee Requesting Artwork For 1990 IWD Posters, Brochures

Edmonton International Women's Day (IWD) Committee is inviting submissions for poster designs from Alberta women artists.

Design competition is to solicit an image to be used for an International Women's Day poster and brochure that will be distributed to women's organizations across the province.

### Entry Procedures and Rules:

*Theme:* Image(s) depicting the spirit of International Women's Day, i.e. personal/political struggles; celebration; crossing economic, class, racial, social barriers; historical; etc.

*Size:* Finished poster size: 15" X 24"

*Image size:* 15" X 20" -- A 4" blank leader on the bottom will be left for groups to add information -- the two may be integrated in poster design.

*Color:* A maximum of three colors will be accepted.

*Award:* A purchase award of \$200 will be given for the winning design.

*Deadline for Submission:* October 21, 1989.

Send submission to Edmonton IWD Committee, lower floor, 9930 - 106 St., Edmonton, T5J 2N7. Submissions not selected should be picked up October 22 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the same address. Those accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped mailing tube will be returned by mail. All unclaimed submissions will be destroyed.

# NAC And ASWAC Plan Closer Relationship

by Anne McGrath

What does the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) have to do with women in Alberta?

NAC is the largest women's organization in Canada. It is non-governmental and voluntary. NAC's membership is composed of Canadian women's groups -- more than 500 of them -- representing a total of more than four million Canadian women. This is both an incredible strength and a source of difficulties.

However, despite the obvious problems presented by such a diverse membership, at various times in the past, NAC has managed to pull together and organize campaigns that contribute significantly to the expression of women's voices in the politics of Canadian society.

In the context of NAC's vision, mandate and reality an organizational review has been underway for several years to examine our achievements and weaknesses and contribute to discussion of the fulfillment of our potential. Part of this discussion has been the role of regions in the development of the organization.

Women in Alberta have representation in NAC through the 40 or so women's groups in this province who are NAC members. As an ASWAC member you are a member of NAC.

Prior to the NAC Annual General Meeting in May there were regional meetings held in Edmonton and Calgary which NAC member groups were invited to attend. Since few Alberta groups actually send delegates to the AGM, the regional meetings were arranged to organize input into the AGM from Alberta. As an initial attempt, the meetings were very successful.

In the wake of the absolutely disastrous federal budget and its very direct attack on core-funded groups like NAC and ASWAC, there was plenty of discussion about action to protest the budget and steps that can be taken to better co-ordinate our participation in NAC.

There was general agreement that it would be wasteful and unnecessary to create an Alberta regional structure for NAC without exploring the possibility of a closer working relationship between NAC and ASWAC.

It was suggested that the ASWAC newsletter could devote a page or two to NAC rather than establishing a separate NAC newsletter in Alberta. Also, the ASWAC Annual Assembly might be an appropriate opportunity for future NAC regional meetings.

If there are Alberta women who

would like to participate in any of NAC's committees, please write or call the Alberta regional representative at the ASWAC office in Calgary (303, 223 - 1 Ave. S.W., T2R 0G9, 233-0731) or contact the provincial ASWAC office in Edmonton. The formation of this year's committee will begin at the NAC executive meeting June 17-19 and, although the list of committees may change, last year's were as follows: Employment and the Economy; Childcare; Survival of the Planet; Male Violence Against Women and Children; Reproductive Rights; Health; Pornography; Prostitution; Rural Women; Women with Disabilities; Lesbians; Visible Minority and Immigrant Women; Constitutional Accord; Support of Native Women; Housing; Justice; Foreign Policy; and Income Security (Pensions and Poverty).

## Trains Depart For Ottawa From East And West As Derail The Budget Campaign Gets Underway

On June 4, representatives of a Derail The Budget Campaign boarded trains and departed from points west and east to arrive in Ottawa June 12. Along the routes, campaign representatives stopped at major centres to protest the federal budget and meet with local committees and coalitions.

In Edmonton, a welcoming committee met the train Monday, June 5 at 7 p.m. in front of the CN Tower.

The group accused the government of "breaking the social contract" by:

- cutbacks to unemployment insurance;
- erosion of family allowances and old age security;
- cutbacks in nationally-funded child care programs;

- cutbacks in federal transfer payments for health and post-secondary education;
- privatization and cuts to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Via Rail and Canada Post;
- reductions in federal support for regional development and development of native communities;
- cuts to farm programs;
- cuts to funding of social advocacy groups;
- cuts to foreign aid;
- abandonment of a progressive tax system;
- introduction of goods and services tax; and
- maintenance of high interest rates.

The main speaker at the welcoming was Lynn Kaye, president of the National Action Committee on the

Status of Women (NAC). Supporting speakers were Mel Hurtig, Jan Reimer, Don Aitken and representatives from ASWAC, Edmonton Working Women, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the PLURA Churches Association.

After the Edmonton stop, the train moved on to Saskatoon.

The campaign was sponsored by NAC, the Pro-Canada Network, Transport 2000 and the newly-forming local coalition for economic justice, whose membership currently includes: Edmonton Working Women, ASWAC, CUPW and CUPE.

ASWAC would like to thank all the speakers and people who came to the rally and provided assistance on such short notice.

Special thanks to billetes Annette Aarbo, Julie Anne Le Gras and Jim Crowell, and to Sheila Dunphy and Michelle Litoski of the University of Alberta Women's Centre, who dropped everything in order to pick up and deliver cookies to the train.

Thanks also to the Edmonton Learner Centre for letting us stuff their newsletters with our leaflets.

## No More Bake Sales For Us, Mr. Wilson!

On April 27, Finance Minister Michael Wilson cancelled plans to proceed with a National Child Care Program in Canada. Pleading poverty, he has broken federal government promises since 1984 to expand and support the child care system.

The *Canada Child Care Act (Bill C-144)* is dead and we all rejoice at the demise of this wrong-headed legislation. But no new funding for the child care system is planned to take its place. Child care centres and parents, caregivers and supportive provincial, territorial and municipal governments are being thrust into a deepening financial crisis. We are left with the child care tax measures passed last year which favor high income earners and will not build a child care system.

Apparently, Wilson wants child care centres to hold the bake sales and raffles which for so many years provided the funds to make child care possible. We say, "No!" Wilson can finance the deficit with bake sales if he wants, but we need regular federal funding to expand and develop Canada's child care system.

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women's response to this news was to encourage concerned persons to send Wilson cakes, breads and cookies to have his own bake sale.

ASWAC members organized Bake Off Actions June 4 in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. Thanks to all of you who participated! A special thanks to Rita Kolpak and the

Lethbridge women who contributed cookies to the NAC Anti-Budget Train, and to all the women across the province who sent their cookies directly to Michael Wilson. In Edmon-

ton, thanks to Noreen Bell-Geekie for co-ordinating the send-off on June 4. Thanks as well to Jocelyn Bathgate and Valda Roberts; because of them, we had excellent media coverage.





# Child Care Conference A Busy Event

by Noreen Bell-Geekie

A National Child Care Conference held in Winnipeg April 5-8 was both interesting and exhausting. The organizers packed a lot into the time allowed and were themselves amazed at the response to the pre-conference activities.

As much as I would have preferred to attend the sessions presented on water play and toys for daycares, I opted for the "grown up" subjects, such as Daycare Research, Standards: In Search of Quality, Day Care Advocacy, Family Day Care Networking and Research and Practice.

Dr. Alan Pence from the University of Victoria seemed to be everywhere, and this is because of his over-riding belief in the need for quality care for the children of Canada.

The main focus of many of the delegates and sessions was the need to professionalize child care-givers, beginning with formal education with recognition of same, along with an increase in salaries. The undervaluing of the job seems to be at the bottom of a lot of the problems.

It surprised me to hear that day

care actually had its beginnings in England as early as 1816, in the form of what was called "infant schools". These schools arose from a need for infant care, a need that does not always seem to be acknowledged by the governments of today.

The session on the National Child Care Study was informative. Data has been collected from 25,000 families and appears to be very comprehensive.

A great deal of previous research had been done through existing centres when, in fact, a greater proportion of children are not cared for in centres. Consequently, this study began from a different angle, and piggy-backed on a Labour Force survey. There were some misgivings about this from the participants in the session, as the Labour Force survey is mandatory.

However, this is what was done and probably because of this, the response to the Child Care Survey was 93 per cent, an absolutely phenomenal response percentage. By doing this, the researchers were able to reach a greater cross-section of

the public and became aware of varied work patterns, demographics, needs of disabled and rural children and children in formal daycare facilities as well as informal facilities.

The feeling that theory and practice are too different is common within child care circles, and the need for alignment of these through "process and progress" was very evident.

The message that ran through the whole conference was that the three "A's": affordability, availability and accessibility were a moot point if the quality question was not addressed.

Society's view of the child care worker is generally restrictive. These workers are not viewed as professional, and this view is internalized by the worker; consequently creativity and quality may be limited.

I had a sense that the 1200 to 1300 people attending this conference were committed to the idea of child care, and looking for support from each other to carry on one of the most valuable, albeit undervalued, roles within our society.

## ASWAC-Lethbridge Workers Have Exciting Month As New Committee Forms, Office Is Vandalized

by Rita J. Kolpak

We had a very exciting month of May in Lethbridge. We held our own annual general meeting on May 24, the outcome of which was formation of a Co-ordinating Committee dedicated to re-organizing and reforming our group. (See board meeting minutes, page 4, for more details.)

Unfortunately, the Co-ordinating Committee has not had much of a chance to meet as our office was broken into and vandalized late in the evening of May 28. All windows were smashed, everything was overturned and abused, and all our communication equipment (i.e. our phone and answering machine) was violently assaulted then murdered.

Nevertheless, we are struggling along and trying to get things back to normal. We luckily have insurance through our glorious provincial office, and all that was destroyed will either be replaced or repaired. Our main loss was all the organizing which was done over the past two years, and much of our literature was either destroyed or covered with millions of tiny pieces of glass shards, making them dangerous to handle.

I shall put in my plug now: any literature, information or donations of any kind will be gratefully accepted!!!

See page 2 for our address and phone number. Moral support will also be very much appreciated.

FOUND: June 5 at Anti-Budget Rally - a black umbrella. Call 421-0306 to claim it.

## Assault Survivors Planning Anthology

A group of Calgary women who are survivors of sexual assault are interested in putting together an anthology of women's writings.

If you are a sexual assault survivor or would like to share your poetry, stories, thoughts or any other form of writing that reflects your experience as a survivor, please send your writings to: The Grapevine Newsletter at #4026, 918 - 16 Avenue, N.W., Calgary, T2M 0K3 or call Shannon at 284-0922 for more information.

# Shedding Oppressive Attitudes Hard Work

ASWAC Board member Jackie Preyde recently attended a workshop titled *Unlearning Racism and Alliance Building -- Leadership Training*, held in Edmonton. These are her thoughts following the event. by Jackie Preyde

This weekend-long workshop on learning to resist and eliminate racism was a very intense and emotional experience. In fact, it was so intense I had completely forgotten, until I re-read a workshop information sheet, that in addition to confronting my own racism as a white person, expressing my feelings about my own oppression as a woman, and working on alliance building to resist all forms of oppression, I was supposed to learn how to lead similar workshops. I'm afraid that for me, this seminar was just a beginning.

Having grown up in a loving, "liberal" environment, I believed I had somehow magically escaped the covert, insidious training which makes us all racist and capable of other forms of oppression. This workshop brought home to me that the chances of my having *not* learned to internalize my dominance as a white,



L. Stewart

Illustration by Leslie Stewart

heterosexual, middle-class, able-bodied person and to internalize my oppression as a woman are slim.

The realization that from first consciousness I was surrounded by messages, some blatant and some subtle, that certain kinds of people were more worthy and deserving of respect than others also makes me very angry. Why was I taught the package of hateful, hurtful lies which I now have to work hard at unlearning?

I know the answer to that question. It's a horrible answer -- those

with social and economic power benefit from the oppression of those without, so much so that through the centuries such oppression has become part of the institutional background of our societies. We humans have an alarming tendency to sacrifice others for the sake of benefiting ourselves. But we also have a sense of fairness, and the ability to reason. We can unlearn our racism, classism, anti-Semitism, handicapism, ageism and homophobia.

I know I don't seem to be telling you about the workshop, but I am. I'm telling you about the ongoing and lasting effects of what I learned during a single intense weekend. Through listening to the experiences, anger and hopes of people as they identified themselves as members of various groups, I realized that oppression is not a people of color issue, or a women's issue, or a gay and lesbian issue, or a Jewish issue; it's a human issue.

We are all capable of oppressing each other, as well as ourselves. It has perhaps crossed your mind that white, upper/middle class, able-bodied, heterosexual, Gentile men are conspicuously absent from my list. I'm never sure of just what to do with them. I do know, however, that it is just as wrong to heap blame and abuse on them as it is to let any of their oppressive acts go unchallenged. They are no more responsible for creating oppression in the world than are any of us today. Though some groups bear their brunt, we are all fed the same lies.

To break free of these lies, to unlearn our oppressive attitudes and behaviors, we must act together: we must build alliances, form support groups, interrupt acts of oppression whenever and wherever they occur. Most importantly, we must give to each other what members of all the target groups demanded of their allies throughout the weekend -- unconditional acceptance and respect.

## Elva Mertick Appointed To Advisory Council

by Marg Johnson

The Honourable Elaine McCoy, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, has announced that Elva Mertick of Calgary has replaced Margaret Leahey as chairperson of the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues. Mertick has been a member of the council, and has a private practice as a social worker. She made the following comments in a CBC-Edmonton interview April 23:

*-strong positions to manoeuvre the council in the forefront of government*  
*-a priority is filling council positions*  
*-to continue work begun by the council*  
*-to ensure a viable working relationship with the Minister. She is our*

*voice in cabinet...If her voice is insufficient, we will speak loudly and ask Alberta women to stand up and speak loudly, till we are too loud to be missed.*

*- a council that is to be very open to the public*

Mertick also announced her position will be part-time, with an elected co-chairperson.

The ASWAC Board submitted to McCoy these women's names to be considered for the council vacancies: Emily Dryzmal of Calgary, Joyce Green of Lethbridge, Dustine Tucker of Calgary and Christine Miller of Lethbridge. Phone or write your member of the legislative assembly, with copies to McCoy, about filling vacancies as soon as possible.

# WAP Co-ordinator Busy With Campaign

by Diane Shaver Wazny

I can hardly believe how time has passed by! The Women Against Poverty summer hearings are just around the corner. Places and times of these hearings are advertised in this newsletter (see next page).

The hearings are important ASWAC events, so I would encourage you to try to attend the one nearest your location. A number of women have been working hard to make these hearings possible. As a result, there will be a variety of presentations from individuals and organizations within each community.

In addition, there have been and will be more local events focusing attention on the hearings. These are:

1) Women's Centres Conference in Blairmore, June 2-4 that included a workshop on the feminization of poverty.

2) Radio interviews in Lac La Biche that started June 3, and discussions on women and poverty each day until the hearing there.

3) A film evening in Canmore June 20. The National Film Board (NFB) film *For Richer, For Poorer* will be previewed and a discussion will follow. This will happen at the conference

room at the Recreation Centre at 7:30 p.m. (The NFB video *No Way Not Me* was shown to high school students there May 31, with a 40 minute discussion following. Representatives from the Women's Resource Centre in Canmore and Canadian Mental Health were present.)

4) I attended a meeting in Peace River with a local women's group and some representatives from organizations within the community May 3. We had a very enlightening discussion on feminization of poverty issues in the Peace River district. Information gathered from this meeting will be included in the final report to the ASWAC Board.

5) The Centre for Education in Edmonton held a workshop entitled *Poverty and the Schools* May 12. ASWAC was well-represented with Shelley Scott, Noreen Bell-Geekie, Kathy Davies and myself attending. I took some detailed notes, so if you are interested in finding out more about what was talked about that day, the information is available at the Edmonton office.

Here is a brief summary of the issues that were discussed at that workshop. First of all, we need to

challenge our stereotypical assumptions about poverty. Very importantly, we need to continue to lobby for changes and raise awareness of the critical state of poverty. It is also necessary that society recognizes that poverty is something which we all must deal with, not just specific groups, i.e. social services. One major issue that kept coming up during the course of the day is how schools are becoming places where every need of a child has to be met, resulting in an erosion of teaching itself and increased responsibility of teachers.

Some new resources are available for general information:

1) *No. 6 Alberta Facts, Children in Poverty: On the Outside Looking In*. Available at Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge offices.

2) *The 1989 Poverty Line*. One reference copy available at Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge offices.

3) *Poverty Profiles*. One reference copy available at Edmonton office.

4) *For Richer, For Poorer*. Promotional copy (thanks to Bonnie Thompson at the NFB) available for viewing from Edmonton office.

These are not recent, but are of particular interest for their Alberta content:

1) *About Women* series from ACCESS Network: #2 *Unpaid and Underpaid Women*; #5 *The Changing Nature of Paid Work*; #6 *The Feminization of Poverty*; #7 *The Politics of Aging*. Available to educational and government-funded organizations by mail order. Telephone 1-800-352-8293 for more information.

A more extensive audio/visual resource list is presently being compiled on the feminization of poverty.

As the public hearings draw nearer, I am becoming more and more excited by the idea of women gathering together in the province to talk about feminization of poverty issues. We are going to break the silence! See you at the hearings.

## ASWAC Action Group Forming In Calgary

by Jackie Preyde

A group of ASWAC members will be meeting in Calgary June 29 to discuss formation of a Calgary Action Group. The meeting will focus on ways to have a more active voice in women's issues in Calgary. It will be held in Room 1 (basement) at the W.R. Castell Library (615 MacLeod Trail S.E.) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The premises are wheelchair accessible.

Discussion will take place on ASWAC involvement in the annual Take Back The Night march organized by the Calgary Status of Women Action Committee, and International Women's Day events, which are now being planned for 1990. The group

will also discuss member involvement in ASWAC's Poverty Hearings Task Force, which will be in Calgary in September. There will be time at the end of the meeting to consider other issues of interest to the action group.

All ASWAC members living in Calgary as well as Calgary women wishing to become members of ASWAC are invited. If you've always wanted to do something with ASWAC, coming to this meeting is the way to get started.

For more information or if you can't come to this meeting but wish to be informed of future meetings, contact Anne at 233-0731 or Jackie at 282-8193.

# Dates For ASWAC Poverty Hearings Set

The face of Canadian poverty today is female. There is a group of issues that in combination are known as "the feminization of poverty". These issues affect thousands of Alberta women to varying degrees, and without change, poverty will continue to be the defining fact in many women's lives. More and more women and children are living in poverty. The facts speak for themselves:

\* *One in five Canadian women are poor.*

\* *More than one million Canadian children live in poverty.*

\* *Women still earn only an average of 60 cents for every dollar a man earns.*

\* *The wage gap between women and men is increasing.*

\* *Two-thirds of all minimum wage earners are women.*

\* *Of women 65 and older, 71.7 per cent are poor.*

\* *Social Services food allowances to cover food for a child is below nutritional requirements.*

\* *Food banks have become a permanent institution (disguising the need for housing, unemployment and wage reform).*

(Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Council on Social Development, Edmonton Social Planning Council, National Council on Welfare, Calgary Health Services.)

There will be two rounds of Women Against Poverty hearings. One set will be completed in June and another in September. Panels and Task Forces will tour the province and report publicly in October at the ASWAC Annual General Meeting.

## JUNE SCHEDULE

The June hearings will include a brief keynote speech to begin the evening, then a panel including representation from ASWAC and the local community will hear submissions.

June 6 -- Crow's Nest Pass

Location: High School Library

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Sylvia Waller, program coordinator, Medicine Hat Unisphere Learner Centre

Contact: Crow's Nest Pass Women's Resource Centre, 562-8000

June 12 -- Lac La Biche

Location: Alberta Vocational College, Room C2-20

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Speakers: Jackie Virtue, Native Women's Association; Cathy Reininger; Women Against Poverty-Edmonton

Contact: Vi Sykes, 623-7963

June 14 -- Fairview

Location: Fairview College, Animal Science Lecture Theatre

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Cathy Reininger, Women Against Poverty-Edmonton

Contact: Janet Preston, 835-2120

June 21 -- Canmore

Location: Policemen's Creek Drop-in Centre

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Norma Farquharson

Contact: Gillian Metcalf, 678-2779

June 22 -- Wetaskiwin

Location: Wetaskiwin United Church

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Speakers: Nancy Kotani, Boyle Street Co-op inner city worker; Cathy Reininger, Women Against Poverty-Edmonton

Contacts: Gerry Bailey (Westrose), 586-2983; Joan White Calf (Camrose), 672-6687.

## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

A Task Force will travel to several larger Alberta centres in September to complete the hearings process. Details are not firm for some, but they will be published by mid-summer.

September 21 -- Medicine Hat

Location: Medicine Hat Public Library

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Contacts: Elizabeth Fielding, 527-6943; Shirley McEachen, 526-8184

September 22 -- Lethbridge

Contacts: Rita Kolpak, 329-8338;

Shirley Clement, 381-7069

September 26 -- Red Deer

Location: Dawe Centre

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Trudie Black, 347-2480

Calgary

Contacts: Marilyn Seelye, 235-1339; Elaine Peters, 285-1214

Grande Prairie

Contact: Helen Greaves, 421-0306

Fort McMurray

Contact: Helen Greaves, 421-0306

Edmonton

Contact: Helen Greaves, 421-0306.

ASWAC gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Secretary of State Women's Program, Alberta Vocational College, Crow's Nest Pass Provincial Building, Fairview College, Policemen's Creek Drop-in Centre, Wetaskiwin United Church, Medicine Hat Public Library, Dawe Centre and the many volunteers who have contributed both labor and finances to this project.

As women we must work together to ensure our stories are told and find ways to end the cycle of poverty. We believe all women, regardless of present economic circumstances, are affected by and vulnerable to the feminization of poverty. Women who have no reason to believe they should be concerned for their economic future may suddenly, without warning, find themselves impoverished. Women together, working with other concerned groups, *can* create lasting change.

The point of the ASWAC Poverty Hearings is to bring women from across Alberta together to break the silence of women's poverty. These hearings will provide a forum for individual women and groups to voice their concerns and tell their stories. We will use this information to pressure the government for meaningful changes in public policy, and to create public awareness of the need for such changes. Speaking out is the first step to ending poverty.

# Conference Delights And Overwhelms

by Anna Pellatt

*"Mental health for women will come when we declare that man, as woman's god on earth, is dead... We may never live to see the Promised Land. But without that declaration, we will never leave Egypt."*

Phyllis Chesler

*"Women need a sovereign territory, a place to shelter the women and children in this society from violence and the threat of violence. We need a sanctuary for women, a place where we can be safe from our own internalized self-hatred."*

Phyllis Chesler

I love Phyllis Chesler. Her presence and presentation on Radical Feminism and Mental Health were the highlights of the Women and Mental Health Conference held in Banff May 11 - 14. She talked about the fact that nothing has changed and everything has changed in the mental health field since she wrote *Women and Madness* in 1972. The mental health profession, she argued, continues "to mirror or support the institution of marriage, and to reinforce our belief in private, individual solutions" when what's needed is revolutionary feminist change. The emergence of feminist theory and therapy has brought positive and significant change, she noted, identifying madness in the economic, political and social context in which women live their lives rather than in women themselves.

Her thoughts were echoed in many workshops and keynote addresses at this mega-conference organized by members of the Canadian Mental Health Association's (CMHA) Alberta North Region.

The conference was huge in numbers -- approximately 750 women and five men attended -- and huge in scope. There were five keynote presentations and 38 workshop sessions dealing with issues as far ranging as pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS), institutionalization, eating disorders, self-esteem, lesbian awareness and racism-sexism.

Susan Penfold's keynote presentation was excellent. She described the historical development of psychiatric thought and practice in relation to women, noting that psychiatry has played a major role in the subjugation of women throughout most of this century.

"Traditional psychiatry and the women's movement remain miles apart," she stated. Feminism argues for social change as a way to heal women's lives while psychiatry reflects and reinforces the status quo.

This point was made clearly in Paula Caplan's workshop presentation *Calling Normal Women Crazy -- The DSM III. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) is*

the psychiatric guidebook to identifying and defining mental health disorders. It establishes the standard for mental health practice. The basic problem with the *DSM III*, Caplan noted, is that it identifies normal reactions to the craziness in women's lives as illness rather than focusing on root causes and issues.

Women are judged to be crazy for suffering from symptoms of abuse, but their abusers are considered to be sane. Gender bias is rampant in the manual. As Caplan noted, "You don't hear any talk of a macho personality disorder."

The American Psychiatric Association's focus is on establishing categories for PMS and "self-defeating" personality disorders.

The most controversial presentation was made by Jeffrey Masson, based on his latest work *Against Therapy: Emotional Tyranny and the Myth of Psychological Healing*. Masson argued strongly against therapy as a mechanism for emotional healing. He noted that potential for abuse in any therapy relationship is great because distribution of power is inherently unequal between therapist and patient. He lumped feminist therapy in with other

forms of traditional therapy and was challenged by many women on this point.

This was not an easy conference to attend. Sharing meals and space with 754 people was often quite overwhelming, as was the content and quantity of information discussed. Things seemed to run at an extremely high emotional level all weekend.

The conference organizers deserve a great deal of credit for pulling everything together. The conference was extremely well-organized and the quality of presentations consistently high. However, I would echo the criticisms raised by the Consumer Participation Study Group regarding the presence and participation of women who have experienced the mental health system in involuntary, intrusive ways: this was a conference by practitioners mainly for other

practitioners. There really was no forum available for women to share their first-hand experiences in dealing with the mental health system.

The other criticism I have is with the location and cost. Banff -- and specifically the Banff Springs Hotel -- is simply not a venue accessible to many women. The cost was prohibitive. As one conference presenter noted, the \$150 registration fee would cover monthly transportation, food and clothing costs for a woman living in poverty.

*(Quotes in this article were taken from the record of proceedings from the conference, an excellent account of the conference, available from the CMHA for \$39.95.)*

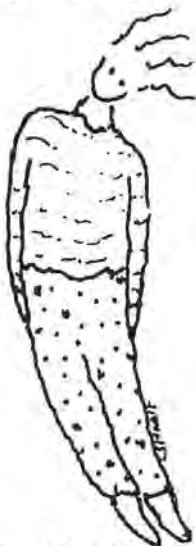


Illustration by Leslie Stewart

# Women's Centres Conference A Success

by Trish Brayne

From the *Lethbridge Herald*

Although women are inching their way along the long road toward equality there is still a formidable distance to go before they and men are regarded equally by society.

This was a consensus reached often during a weekend conference called Women Together, sponsored by the Crownsnest Pass (CNP) Women's Centre.

The event was held at the Pass Powderkeg Ski Lodge in Blairmore and drew about 68 women from northern, central and southern Alberta.

Speakers included Joyce Green, recent New Democrat (ND) candidate for Lethbridge West. Green challenged more women to become involved in politics.

"Just a few of us work (in politics)," said Green. "And other women say, 'Gosh, it's good you're doing that.' But, it's too easy to advocate that role and then turn around and damn those women when they can't change the world.

"Everything is political. There are politics in domestic relationships. Who controls the money and the choices family units make? Who performs the majority of the unpaid, undervalued work?

"There are politics in education, in health care, in financial systems, in technologies. There are politics in women's resource centres."

Green said there is no way women can avoid having their lives touched by politics. Their only choice, she said, is how they affect these politics.

"Even the decision to withdraw is a political decision," Green said.

Diana Cooper, of Lethbridge Community Services, led women through the steps of identifying the needs and values of women's centres -- from the conceptual stage to their practical application.

"But, if we're going to make women's centres work, we have to

understand the terms and communicate," Cooper said. "You can't make decisions unless you know what your values are. Identifying values is critical."

In Blairmore the CNP Women's Centre has been established about five years. Lee McVickar, board chairperson, said the centre, staffed by one paid employee, depends heavily on its volunteers. They work as counsellors, on call through a 24-hour crisis line, and in a clothes bank run from the centre.

McVickar said she was pleased with attendance at the conference, the third of its kind in Alberta. The first was in Edmonton, the second last year in Canmore. The fourth may or may not take place next year, depending on whether or not an Alberta women's centre is prepared to host it.

Attending the Blairmore event was a contingent from Red Deer, including Trudy Black, director of the Central Alberta Outreach Society in Red Deer.

Black took part in a forum Sunday with Sheryl Masters-Mrazek, director of the Lethbridge YWCA. Also on the panel was Sharon Niemeyer, board member of the CNP Women's Re-

source Centre.

Black said she sees women's centres meeting needs within communities. "But first you have to find out what needs are not being met and where you as women can fill the gaps," Black said.

Eight of a 12-member group called the Raging Grannies from Victoria, B.C. provided entertainment Saturday. The women established the group in 1987 when they banded together to protest nuclear proliferation. Their message is spread through song and poetry.

Other speakers were Val McMullan, director of Family Services, Lethbridge Community College, on self esteem; Rita Thompson, Canadian Mental Health Association, Calgary; Debbie Foster and Tamara Atkinson of Lethbridge, on women and poverty; Julia Menyk of Alberta Women's Secretariat, on sexual stereotyping in media and education; Margaret Webb, PhD, on health and wellness of women; Terri Ann Marco of ASWAC-Lethbridge on government policy -- its impact on women; Rita Kolpak, also of ASWAC-Lethbridge; and Linda Gould, president of the ND Women's Caucus on Political Involvement of Women.

## YW Presents Awards To Women At Gala Dinner

Six very deserving women and one special group of women were honored with a YWCA Tribute to Women Award May 10 at a gala dinner held at Edmonton's Westin Hotel.

Mistress of Ceremonies was Madame Justice Joanne B. Velt and the guest speaker was Sharon Wood, the first North American woman to conquer Mount Everest.

The recipients were chosen from a field of 28 nominees in six categories. In addition this year, a special award was given to a group of very deserving women. And they are...

**Margaret Perry Flynn** - Arts and

Culture

**Dr. Elsie McFarland** - Athletics, Recreation and Fitness

**Linda Duncan** - Business, Labor, Professions and Technology

**Mary Adam Morrison Davis** - Community Service

**Mary Burlie** - Health, Social Science and Social Services

**Marjorie Bowker** - Public Affairs and Communication

**The Edmonton Grads** - Special Award

The recipients received a beautiful tri-color pin made of 18 karat gold, green gold and silver designed by local jewelry designer Ian Medland.

# happeningshappeningshappenings

*June 11-July 1* - Maenad Productions Theatre Society presents **13th God**, by **Rose Scollard** at the Pumhouse Theatre in Calgary. An irreverent investigation into the source and nature of feminine creativity. A time-warped mythic comedy using dance, music and mayhem to dazzle and beguile. For information, call 245-2491.

*June 15-18* - The Canadian Mental Health Association -- Alberta South Central Region, is holding its annual conference at the Palliser Hotel in Calgary. Entitled **Mental Wellness: Making it a Reality**, the conference features 16 workshops, including a panel discussion on women's issues. For more information, call Barb Ferguson at 283-7591.

*June 15* - Salvadorean Women's Union, Salvadorean Social Services and Salvadorean Cultural Association are holding a workshop for women titled **Problems of Latin American Women in Canada**, starting at 7 p.m. at the Edmonton Women's Building, 9930 - 106 St. Call 425-3519 for more information.

*June 16* - Lynn Lavner and David Sereda in Concert at the Provincial Museum Theatre in Edmonton, 8 pm. Tickets available at Common Woman Books (8724 - 109 St.) or Fritz That's It Cafe (9843 - 110 St.).

*June 17* - Lynn Lavner and David Sereda in Concert at the Orpheus Theatre at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. Tickets available at A Woman's Place Bookstore (1412 Centre St. S) and Holomagic (917 - 17 Ave. S.W.).

## Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) '89 Events in Edmonton

*June 17* - Fundraising barbeque with Svend Robinson, sponsored by

GALA Civil Rights.

*June 18* - Workshop on racism.

*June 19* - Forum on legal issues.

*June 20* - Public lecture on gay literature by Dr. Philip Knight at Common Woman Books (8724 - 109 St.) followed by a wine and cheese. Time: 7:30 p.m.

*June 21* - Variety Night sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Youth Group.

*June 22* - Public lecture on gay art. Wine and cheese sponsored by Womospace at the Women's Building (9930 - 106 St.).

*June 23* - Film Night.

*June 24* - Wellness Workshop. Dance at Bonnie Doon Community League Hall, sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre.

*June 25* - Picnic, croquet match and scavenger hunt in Victoria Park.

*June 26* - Public lecture on Edmonton's gay history.

*June 27* - Barbeque and dance at The Roost.

Call Barb Lauber at 435-4966 (h) or 425-9600 (w) for more information.

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*June 17* - **Regional Rep meeting** in Innisfail. Phone Elin Barlem at 227-2927 for details. Next regional rep meeting is August 17 in Westeros.

*July 6* - Salvadorean Women's Union, Salvadorean Social Services and Salvadorean Cultural Association are holding a workshop for women titled **Development of the Modern Latin American Woman**, starting at 7 p.m. at the Edmonton Women's Building, 9930 - 106 St. Call 425-3519 for more information.

*Sept. 15-17* - **Alberta Womenshine '89** will be a provincial forum for all women with disabilities. Forum topics will include families, self-esteem, relationships, assertiveness, access to the women's movement, others. There will also be an attempt to reach out to women with disabilities who

are isolated and to provide them with ongoing support. For more information, call Tanis Doe at 492-4291 (Voice or TDD) or write her at 25B Brown St., Stony Plain, T0E 2G0.

*Oct. 12-15* - **Insight '89**, the second annual women's film and video festival is calling for submissions. They are looking for work that provides regional perspectives of Canadian women or which offer insight into the lives of "marginalized" women from ethnic, cultural or social minorities. Last year's festival attracted more than 700 participants to more than 50 films and video screenings. Phone Anne Lynagh, publicist, at 424-0724 for more information.

*Oct. 20-21* - Alberta Hospital Association and Royal Alexandra Hospitals presents **Wellness For Women: Help Yourself!** at the Edmonton Convention Centre. Speaker will be June Callwood. There will be a choice of three of ten concurrent sessions. Cost is \$55, including lunch and refreshment breaks. For more information or to register, call 423-1776, Ext. 408 or write Education Services, Alberta Hospital Association, 10009 - 108 St., Edmonton, T5J 3C5.

## Comings and Goings

ASWAC would like to welcome Linda Cumming, who has been hired by Women Against Poverty-Edmonton as a researcher. Linda will be working in the Edmonton office until mid-September. We would like to say goodbye and thank-you to Diane Shaver Wazny, our Women Against Poverty provincial hearings co-ordinator. Diane's contract position will be over at the end of June.

Also, a fond farewell to Monica Walker, who has left her position with Edmonton Working Women, and a fond hello to Mary Hickmore, who will be filling the position for the summer.

**The Alberta Status of Women  
Action Committee  
Box 1573  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N7**



**The largest feminist organization in Alberta, with three offices (in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge), and a 13-year "herstory" of lobbying, educating and organizing on women's issues.**

**Phone for membership information, or for details on our current priority campaign: Women Against Poverty.**

**For those of you with an "88" on your mailing label, it is past time to renew for 1989. Please remember that your membership fees and donations are an important part of ASWAC's income.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

**Membership:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New  Renewal

**Donation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Defence**

**Fund:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Suggested membership fee is \$10, but we will accept whatever you can afford.*

**Please make cheques out to: ASWAC, Box 1573, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N7**