

Inside:

Photo Album	p. 4
Popular Summit	p. 6
Vive la vie!	p. 7

Issue 2 June 1988
Lesbian and Gay Pride Day Edition

If you've had PCP,
you may need
pentamidine.
Call 591-8489.

AIDS ACTION NEWS!

TREATMENTS AND RIGHTS



John Larter cartoon reprinted with permission from *The Toronto Star*

Lesbian and Gay Pride Day is an occasion to remind ourselves of our right to exist and an opportunity to celebrate our difference. Our coming out and our feeling good about ourselves are always restrained, however, by society's rejection of our difference. Homophobia hurts us all, lesbian, gay, straight, or bisexual.

The AIDS crisis has given an element of our society an opportunity to voice and to act on their homophobia. The AIDS struggle — the fight to give not only people living with AIDS (PLWA), but all those who are HIV positive, proper care and medical treatment — cannot be separated from the cause of gay liberation.

Homophobia is not merely the bigotry of a Jerry Falwell or a William Vander Zalm. It is also politicians who fail to provide leadership in this crisis because it is "only fags who are dying." Or bureaucrats who shuffle their papers and collect their salaries without the slightest concern for urgency because "homos have only themselves to blame."

Homophobia is the exclusion of gay men with AIDS from proper treatment and medical care at all levels and in all jurisdictions of the health care system. AIDS ACTION NOW! is committed to fighting this kind of institutionalized homophobia. For this reason, AIDS

ACTION NOW! is happy to be a part of Pride Day.

On June 8, three weeks after our protest march through downtown Toronto demanding the government step up its efforts against AIDS, federal Minister of Health Jake Epp announced Ottawa would grant \$129 million in this area over the next five years.

The federal government's new \$129 million plan includes:

- \$48 million for education, including a national AIDS awareness campaign.
- \$35 million for scientific research, including work on an AIDS vaccine and new drug treatments.
- \$20 million for AIDS prevention and special care for those who are ill, to be funnelled through private organizations such as support groups and hospices.
- \$10 million to train health workers, develop new ways to care for AIDS patients and start AIDS training in the workplace.
- \$10 million to run the program and develop AIDS policies.
- \$6 million for international AIDS efforts.

AIDS ACTION NOW! believes that the amount allocated to treatments should be doubled. The policy of a cure or nothing, and of ineffective, soft-sell education programs have prevented more money from being set aside for developing treatments more promising than a cure.

On June 13 and 14, not a week after the federal government's announcement, *The Toronto Star* published a poll it commissioned from Goldfarb Consultants on Ontarians' attitudes towards AIDS. One of the few positive responses to this survey was that 93% favoured the