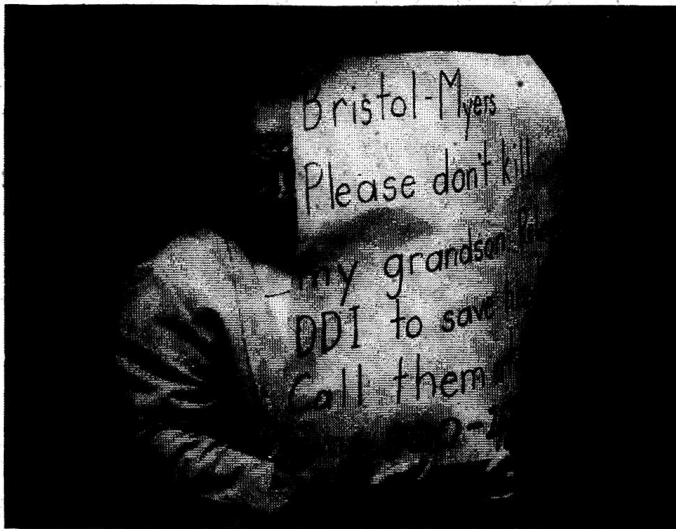


AIDS ACTION NEWS!

AAN! SUPPORTS EVA IN HER FIGHT FOR DDI



AIDS ACTION NOW! provided moral support and volunteers to help Eva, the mother of a seriously ill PLWA, fight Bristol-Myers for the release of DDI (dideoxynosine), an anti-viral drug controlled by the American pharmaceutical company. Bristol-Myers has consistently refused to release the drug in Canada — even though it could legally do so under this country's Emergency Drug Release Program — until it receives regulatory approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. That approval was expected in early September. Eva has been picketing daily in front Bristol-Myers' Toronto offices as 390 Bay St., often accompanied by her 80-year-old father and volunteers from AIDS ACTION NOW!

CANADIAN WOMEN WITH AIDS

The experience of HIV+ women in Canada is a poorly documented area. This lack of documentation results from various factors: the proportionately small number of women within the AIDS community; their specific fears and isolation; clinical models for HIV

infection that reflect the symptoms of gay white men; and women's lack of access to testing, counselling, education and support.

Women living with AIDS therefore have a very different experience
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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

AIDS ACTION NOW! began with the struggle, for people living with AIDS (PLWAs), to get access to aerosolized pentamidine for PCP pneumonia. That was in February, 1988. Almost a year later, in January, 1989, the federal government agreed to release new, experimental AIDS treatments, on compassionate grounds, through the Emergency Drug Release Program (EDRP). While the EDRP was not seen as the perfect solution, it looked at the time as though the problem of access to treatments was a thing of the past. That was before the fight for DDI.

Since the Vth International Conference in Montréal, where DDI was hailed as an important, less-toxic substitute for AZT, a struggle has been waged, both here and in the United States, for the release of the drug to people who cannot tolerate AZT. This effort has been directed mainly against the producer of DDI, the giant pharmaceutical company, Bristol-Myers.

The use of the EDRP to obtain new treatments for AIDS as also given rise to another problem of access: some doctors are not prepared to use it in treating their patients. In some ways, this is not surprising. Doctors treating AIDS patients are pretty much on their own. For example, even though the AIDS epidemic is more than eight years old, there are still no standard treatments for many opportunistic infections, to say