

LETTERS

Enlightened ideas

Thank you for your article "The flip side of AIDS" (Medicine, July 23). So far several hundred Canadians have been diagnosed as having hypersensitivities to synthetic materials. Most suffer less than Sandra Stronge, the woman whose difficulties you chronicled. But without government recognition of the disease, many are unable to afford a rehabilitative environment to live in. They face a gradual degeneration of their health. As with other chronic diseases, this degeneration often results in social isolation. Even though many toxicologists working for the federal government recognize the illness, a lack of recognition by the provincial medical associations prevents victims from getting help. Faced with an inability to explain the disease, many doctors say it is psychosomatic. Your article gives an enlightened view and one that admits there are still some new ideas in the world.

—CHRIS BROWN,
Ottawa



Stronge: lack of recognition