

Angry at lack of attention

Cancer victim's mother rips bureaucracy

SHELTON—Patti Stiewing went to Washington last week to teach politicians about cancer, the disease which claimed her young daughter three years ago, but returned feeling she was the one who got the education.

"I hate to say this, but everything I had heard about Washington, as far as corruption, and how industry is married to politics, is true," she said today.

"Seeing the vast industrialization throughout New Jersey on my way home, I knew that unless everyone cares about the future, and does something, it's too late for the United States" she

said from her boat in Milford today, where she goes to "get away from the whole sickening scene.

"We're either going to see a mass exodus from the states, or a mass revolution against industry and politics," she predicted.

"My daughter Amber is only one of millions of children who die from cancer each year. Adults have a choice, but children don't" she said, charging that people rationalize their way out of taking a responsible, realistic and active role against cancer by saying, "I'm just doing my job."

"Every one of us is a contributor to the problem. In Washington, they tried to depersonalize the situation by saying 'We're curing 50 percent.' They just loaded me up with papers, fact sheets and statistics instead of doing something," she said.

She chose to take her protest to the White House, picketing the government's lack of action in dealing with the world-wide problem which came into her home, and took her four-year-old away.

As she walked up and down Pennsylvania Avenue, she wore a sandwich

board sign. On one side was a picture of her daughter Amber when she was a healthy child, so pretty that she was a model. On the other was a picture of the same little girl after she was stricken with a cancerous tumor that started behind her right ear.

Mrs. Stiewing, whose cheerful disposition and outgoing personality make her difficult to ignore, said she was given a hearing by officials at the National Cancer Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency, but they made no promises.

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