

Nursing home continued from page 1

on medication, or who won't provide oxygen.

Then there's the problem of evacuation. A number of disastrous fires of the past year have pointed out with tragic clarity the difficulty involved in evacuating multi-story nursing homes. The situation in Alberta is amply described, she says, by a fire earlier this year in a Calgary nursing home.

The fire wasn't particularly big, but a successful evacuation was effected only when members of the public smashed through windows to get the residents out.

And the Calgary home is single storey. Had it been a high-rise, claims the nurse, an evacuation would never have been completed in time.

She believes evacuation of multi-storey nursing homes can be accomplished more safely with the provision of evacuation chutes similar to those used on large airliners. Air Canada has, according to her, agreed that such a proposal is feasible.

But as yet, government has

1. (b) Boston Red Sox
2. The Big Train
3. St. Louis
4. (c) Washington
5. New Orleans Saints
6. (b) Stan Musial
7. All have except Babe Ruth, Larsen's perfect game was in the 1956 World Series.
8. Jacques Laperriere - 1964
9. Craig Patrick
10. Master, U.S. Open, British Open, PGA



Although the number of senior citizens is rapidly rising in Alberta, the nursing homes are in no condition to handle them.

done nothing.

The nurse places most of the blame for this situation on the provincial government. It has created a climate in which private operators can exploit the system, she says.

She finds it frustrating, she says, that 10 years of complaining about private nursing-home operators has had little or no results.

The nurse is calling for an official government investigation into the private nursing home business. She is issuing the call now, she says, because public

attention is currently centered on nursing homes, and public opinion is "very fickle".

A change in the Act is needed (and in fact the government is rewriting the Act) but according to her, the Act can't be changed quickly enough. She's calling for immediate additional funding in addition to the investigation.

Extra money for nursing homes is not a question of economics, she says; old people are not a business.

"We are a rich province, and our old people deserve a heck of a lot better than this."

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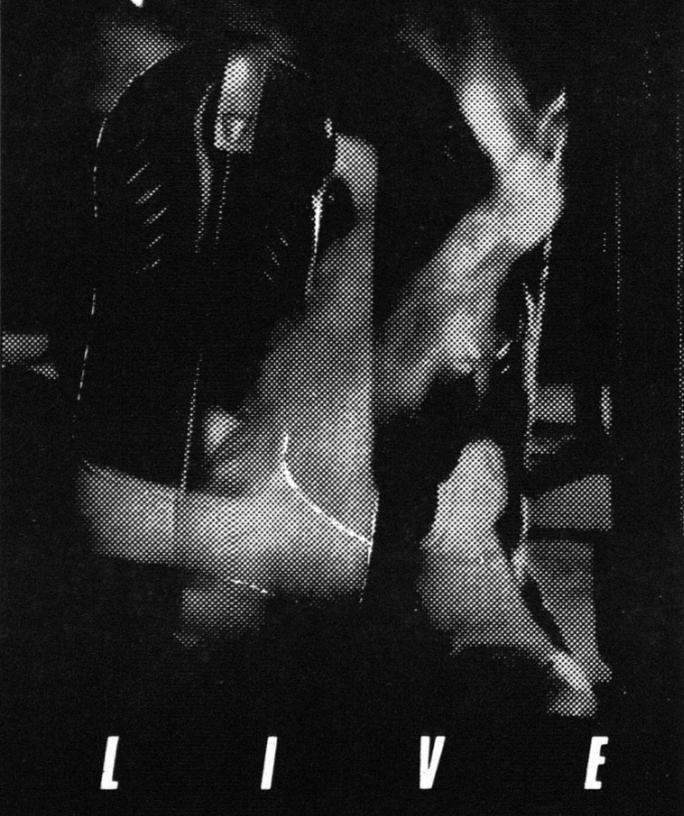
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