Did nursing home violations happen on purpose?



for their care.

Eventually the husband died and the wife remained at the home. When her funds were exhausted she received Medicathenefits. There was no family and the only visitor she had was a neighbor who came weekly.

Fitness

from page **5H**

facilities were another story. For about 30 minutes, I alternated between the steam room, sauna, and whirlpool.

'That afternoon, we decided to go white water rafting on the Colorado River. During the one-hour bus ride from Aspen to the take-off point, our guide stressed the importance of safety measures to minimize risks. "There aren't rails attached to the bottom of these rafts." he emphasized. "This isn't Disney World." On fortunately, even after we signed "release waivers," the seriousness of his messeps failed to slink in.

We put our life jackets on, climbed into the raft and reviewed our paddling instructions, eight people in all, including the guide. When we first started, it was suny and warm, and the current was gentle. This calim scenario, however, quickly changed.

Within minutes, we were riding the rapids, attempting to steer clear of several boulders that lay shead. A photographer, hired by the raft company, snapped out the surrounded by the safe country was the safe to the rain began to fall. As we brushed against a huge boulder, we realized that we were in for the ride of our lives.

Colorado in the summertime is he fabulous family vacation. We've

Colorado in the summertime is a fabulous family vacation. We've literady made our reservation for next year.

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Recently I received a letter from a woman who worked for an attorney. The lawyer had a married couple as clients. Both needed nursing care and went to the same nursing home. Proceeds from the sale of their home paid

One day the lawyer was advised that the nursing home was moving the woman to a facility in another city. The given reason was that the original home was being closed due to having too many that the original home was being closed due to having too many longer of Public Health violations. The new home was nonly inferior to the one the cilicnt was in but it was so far away that er only visitor could not make the trip.

The letter writer continues by saying that she believes, "Nursing homes purposaly accumulate violations when their Medicaid load increases, thus reducing their private-pay patients. After the results are accumulated to the control of the control

cussions. This too should not be, but I have heard these sentiments frequently.

There are agencies, such as Citizens for Better Care, that should be informed of perceived violations of residents' rights and unfair business practices. People can become involved with organizations that oversee nursing homes. Write your state representative or congressman. If we all work together, we will be able to ensure all our older citizens the care they require in an atmosphere conductive to their physical and mental well-being.

If you wish to report or seek information concerning possible unfair nursing home practices call, toll-free, Citizens for Better Care, 1800 292-7852, Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Q. My wife, who is only 87,

a.m. to 5 p.m.
Q. My wife, who is only 57,
has had a stroke which has left

Permanent Makeup

her with some confusion. She dresses and foods herself and is continent but needs help with her medications and bathing. I work and have to travel a great deal which means she is left alone in our home with sitters or aldes. She really needs to be with other people and in a place where she could not only have company but also enjoy some activities. I am having a very hard time finding someplace where all the other people are not elderly. Have you any suggestions?

A. I am afraid that the type of care you are looking for caters mainly to older adults. What your wife probably needs is either aswire probably needs is either assisted living or apartments with services. The ages of the people

living in those types of accommodations probably average in the 70s and 80s. You might, however, want to investigate adult foster are homes. I am not completely familiar with them but looking into these homes would be a good idea.

Rence Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communica-tions and admission at a Roches-ter Hills nursing facility. She is a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to

To leave a message for Mahler, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2017, Ext. 1869. Send your ques-tions to her at the Observer & Ec-centric, 805 E. Mople, Birming-ham 48009.

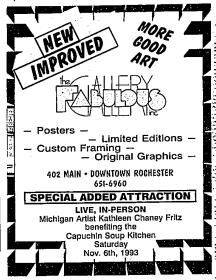


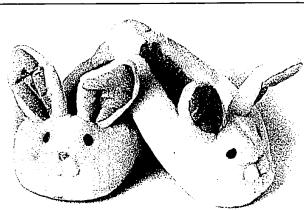
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