

# Alberta MDs stand opposed to suicide help

CALGARY (CP) — Most Alberta physicians surveyed recently believe it should be illegal for to help patients take their own lives.

One-quarter of doctors say they would practise euthanasia, even if it were legal, says the soon-to-be published study by two Calgary doctors.

But there is considerable uncertainty among physicians about the issue of euthanasia.

"Doctors are really conflicted about the whole subject," said Dr. Douglas Kinsella, the assistant dean of medical bioethics at the University of Calgary, who completed the study with Dr. Marja Verhoeff.

Withdrawing treatment that isn't helping terminally ill patients, at their request, is often practised by doctors.

But assisting suicide, by hastening death, is still a criminal offence in Canada and carries a 14-year maximum prison sentence.

The study is based on a 38-question survey sent to roughly half of Alberta's licensed physicians last June.

Highlights of the findings include:

— The majority of Alberta doctors believes assisting in suicides should remain a crime, while 18

per cent believe it should be decriminalized.

— Doctors are evenly split over the morality of euthanasia.

— Two-thirds of the doctors don't want a decision on patient euthanasia left in their hands.

Kinsella said the Alberta study is the most complete so far done on the subject, noting it drew a 75 per cent response rate. There are plans to conduct a similar survey of doctors across the country.

Raw data has yet to be released, pending publication, but other physicians weren't surprised by the findings.

"There is a great deal of uncertainty on the subject," said Dr. William Grisdale, director of the Calgary General Hospital's palliative care program.

The Canadian Medical Association has yet to determine its policy on euthanasia and is the process of drafting a policy.

"Right now, ethically and legally, it's a no-no," said association spokesman Doug Geekie.

Only two other medical surveys of doctors' beliefs regarding euthanasia have been conducted in the world, one in Australia and one in the U.S.

*'Right now, ethically and legally, it's a no-no.'*

— Geekie

## Buffalo roaming to deaths

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Three buffalo that wandered out of Yellowstone National Park onto private land were shot to death on the weekend, state wildlife officials reported.

"The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana Department of Livestock were responding to landowners who had expressed concern about the threat of brucellosis, a disease found in park bison which may be transmitted to cattle and cause them to abort fetuses," the department said.

Carcasses were butchered and dressed by members of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Tribe and taken to the tribe's reservation in southeastern Montana for distribution to needy families.

The tribe agreed to handle bison carcasses on an experimental basis to ease the personnel load on the wildlife and livestock departments.

If more bison are shot, some will be offered for sale.

The bison killed were on private land four or five kilometres north of Yellowstone.

The 1991 state legislature adopted a law authorizing the wildlife and livestock departments to act if park bison threaten property or cattle.

Yellowstone has about 3,500 bison, and the population is growing at 500 a year, according to the wildlife department.



**STOMACH OF STEEL** — Instructor Greco Wong gets ready for the impact of his student Tom Ng jumping off a ladder as part of martial arts display in Calgary on the weekend. The event was put on to raise awareness and funds for the Cultural Centre Building under construction.

— Southam photo

## 100-hour sentence in duster crash death

CALGARY (CP) — A Didsbury pilot who plowed his ultra-light crop-dusting plane into a pickup truck in June, killing the driver, has been sentenced to 100 hours of community service and placed on 15 months probation.

John Everett Page, 44, of Didsbury, had earlier pleaded guilty in a Calgary provincial court Oct. 21 to dangerous operation of an aircraft.

He was sentenced recently by Judge Gary Cioni.

Judge Cioni said the crash was caused by serious pilot error but acknowledged it was a mistake.

He said it would serve no useful purpose to sentence Page to jail.

Page was spraying weed-killer over a field about 70 kilometres north of Calgary when he hit a truck driven by John Henry Monsma, also of Didsbury.

Monsma, 35, died instantly when the crop duster ramed

into the top of his truck, tearing off the roof.

Monsma had recently moved to Alberta from Ontario and was engaged to be married.

Page, who suffered back and shoulder injuries in the crash, had almost finished spraying the field when the collision occurred.

The plane was flying at about 100 kilometres an hour and was just one metre above the ground when he slammed into the pickup on Highway 582.

Stan Shumaker, owner of the field, said he saw the red and yellow ultra-light aircraft tear the roof off the pickup truck with its wheels.

"The wheel caught the top of the truck. I guess (the pilot) couldn't get (the plane) lifted up quick enough," after completing a north-south run across the wheat field.

"Two more passes and he would have been finished."



**BIG BAD WOLVES** — Lindsay Kirk, 8, and her grandmother Pearl Parker of Cochrane, Alberta, share their treats on the weekend with three wolves wandering the Calgary Zoo. The wolves are members of a theatre group Maszuirx who were invited to entertain people at the zoo.

— CP photo

## Gas plants costly to trash

CALGARY (CP) — When they were built, Alberta's natural gas plants prompted concern only about what was spewed into the air. But now that many are near the end of their life span, the plants' owners and neighbors worry about the damage to soil and groundwater after 25 years of intense chemical activity.

"It's a difficult subject because oil companies know they're going to find all sorts of old skeletons in their closet," says Roger Creasey of the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

"There are varying degrees of contamination, some of which will be long-term or take big bucks to clean up," he says. "It's the big bucks and hovering liability which bothers them."

As gas fields produce less gas and more water, old plant sites are being "decommissioned" — shut down and cleaned up.

Many of the 635 Alberta plants designed to remove impurities from gas before it is delivered to customers were built in the '60s and will soon be decommissioned.

The Canadian Petroleum Association has set up a decommissioning task force. An association report on Alberta sour gas plants showed the groundwater was contaminated at all but one of 32 plants.

Contaminants include any chemical above normal acceptable levels or that didn't occur normally.

Excavation and removal to a landfill of soil from a relatively small gas plant could cost several million dollars, "and a properly designed groundwater remediation system could cost as much as \$500,000 over 10 years," the study says.

Contamination is usually the result of outdated work practices.

Improvements have been made in the way the plants are operated, said Millard Wright of Gulf Canada Resources.

Today's situation isn't the result of bad faith by industry, but a lack of thought about consequences, said Harvey Locke, a Calgary environmental lawyer.

"Groundwater contamination isn't something we've paid much attention to as a society, and we're going to have to."

New environmental protection legislation will set standards for cleaning up such sites, Locke says. Gulf has spent six years and \$3.5 million decommissioning its plant at Pincher Creek, Alta.

"You couldn't have picked a more difficult plant," says Wright, noting some area residents had long complained about health problems they attributed to sour gas plants.

Gulf found sulphates in groundwater, heavy metals, and organic chemicals that at that time were thought to be possible carcinogens.

## Police blow it again

### Black Calgarian plans to sue

CALGARY (CP) — A Calgary man, wrongfully arrested by police departments in three cities over seven years, plans to sue over the latest mistake.

Gregg Chase, 35, was held by Calgary police for more than two hours Thursday night, stripped naked and subjected to a body search while officers confiscated \$600,000 worth of heroin in a northeast townhouse next door to his.

Police now admit Chase was arrested by mistake and have apologized to him.

However, Chase believes he was arrested because he's black.

"I don't even have a criminal record. It's because I'm black. They just assume I'm into this or into that," Chase said on the weekend, adding it is the second time in 18 months Calgary police have mistakenly arrested him.

"I'm getting tired of going to jail for something I didn't do."

Chase said he was wrongfully arrested by police in Edmonton in 1989 and in Vancouver in 1985.

The first incident, in Vancouver, was the most frightening. He was arrested for murder.

Despite having identification, police believed he was a fugitive from Seattle and held him until a series of witnesses said Chase looked nothing like the suspect.

"I'm a law-abiding citizen."

"I have two jobs, four children and a wife. I mind my own business. But this time I can afford to do something so I'm taking legal action."

Chase said he has been pulled over repeatedly by Calgary police for no reason and charged with offences that were later dismissed because the officers involved failed to show up in court.

"The police tell me it's not racially motivated — it gets frustrating."

Police Supt. Gerry Baxter said it was an honest mistake on the officers' part because the doors of the two apartments are so close together.

"The allegation this is a racist issue is absolutely incorrect — I think it's a little trite and worn out."

This is the third recent incident

in which Calgary police have arrested the wrong man in a drug bust.

On July 9, police stormed the home of Errol Smyth, falsely believing they'd find cocaine and a gun.

He was arrested naked and at gunpoint in front of his children.

On Sept. 13, a search warrant with the wrong address led police to mistakenly raid Mark Schonfeld's southeast home in search of marijuana.

## Jackpot

### Lotto 6-49

TORONTO (CP) — The winning numbers in Saturday's Lotto 6-49 draw were 4, 6, 20, 26, 31 and 33.

The bonus number was 11.

In Ontario, the Encore number was 915981.

### The Plus

The Plus winning number was 547765.

### The Extra

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — The four Extra winning numbers for British Columbia on Saturday were 05, 40, 65 and 88.

A match on all four numbers wins \$500,000.

Three numbers wins \$1,000.

Two numbers wins \$10. One number wins \$1.

### POGO

WINNIPEG (CP) — The winning numbers in Saturday's Pogo draw were 9, 10, 14, 28, 31 and 37.

The bonus number was 29.

The Pogo jackpot of \$250,000 was not won.

The one winner in the 5 out of 6 plus bonus number category won \$1,525.60.

The 18 winners in the 5 out of 6 category win \$203.90 each.

The 954 winners in the 4 out of 6 plus the bonus number category win \$26.80.

The 1,194 winners in the 3 out of 6 plus the bonus number category win \$10.

The 12,300 winners in the 3 out of 6 category win four Pogo

selections and one entered The Plus selection.

### Lotto Keno

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — The winning numbers drawn Saturday in the B.C. Keno lottery were 01, 08, 21, 22, 32, 38, 50 and 53. Sunday's numbers were 3, 5, 34, 38 41, 42, 48 and 55.

### Lotto B.C.

The winning Lotto BC numbers were 08, 10, 20, 24, 25 and 27.

### Lottario

TORONTO (CP) — The six winning numbers in Saturday's Lottario draw for an estimated \$604,000 jackpot were 2, 12, 20, 30, 31 and 32.

The bonus number was 11.

The early bird numbers were 2, 9, 28 and 39.

### Wintario

TORONTO (CP) — The five winning numbers in Saturday's Wintario Extra draw were 14, 24, 28, 31 and 44.

### Daily Deal

WINNIPEG (CP) — Daily Deal numbers for Saturday are:

Spades 8  
Hearts King  
Clubs 10  
Diamonds Ace

A match of all four wins 1,000 times the money wagered; a match of three wins 30 times the money wagered; and a match of two is three times the money wagered.

In the event of a discrepancy between these numbers and the official winning numbers list, the latter shall prevail.

## Forum

### Gratification

"I did the best I could do," says Terri Wilkins, who represented Medicine Hat in the Miss Rodeo Canada contest in Edmonton on the weekend.

Though Wilkins didn't place — Deedra Libbert from Cardston won the crown — in the competition, she says she is glad she entered it and had a fantastic time.

"I learned that even though you be yourself it doesn't always win you a title — but it does give you more gratification."

"The competition was really tough but I think Medicine Hat has a stronger contest."

She says she doesn't regret taking the once in a lifetime experience because although she wasn't placed she got to meet 10 other girls and now has new friends across Western Canada.

### In hospital

An accident in front of the Medicine Hat RCMP detachment Saturday evening sent the driver to hospital a block away.

Staff Sgt. Flinn said 19-year-old Annette Scarpino, 24 Taylor Pl. S.E., drove her 1986 Ford Escort into a parked pickup truck at 11:36 p.m.

Scarpino's car received \$5,000 damage, Flinn said. The pickup, which was driven into a light standard, received \$2,000 damage.

### No abuse

EDMONTON (CP) — A calf which had to be killed after its leg was broken at the Canadian Finals Rodeo was not being legally abused, says an Edmonton SPCA official.

When a cowboy roped the running calf during the event, the animal hit the ground and broke one of its legs. Edmonton SPCA Const. Melinda Jones said a veterinarian on the scene decided the calf couldn't be saved and put the animal down.

Jones said the incident did not breach Alberta's Animal Protection Act. A SPCA constable is always on duty at Northlands Coliseum during the rodeo.

### Joint probe

Foremost RCMP have charged two Etzikom residents with the cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking.

Cpl. Larry Russell said Larry Joseph Egger, 35, and his wife Jean Marie Egger, 34, will appear on the charges in Bow Island provincial court Dec. 5.

The Eggers were arrested following a joint investigation of the Foremost RCMP detachment, the Lethbridge RCMP drug unit, and Lethbridge city police.

### House entered

Thieves broke into a house in the Calder Road area Friday and stole off with \$20,000 in jewelry and cash.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Flinn said the thieves entered the house by first breaking the lock of an attached garage.

One suspect later passed some silver coins to a bank taken during the break-in, Flinn said.

### Money sought

EDMONTON (CP) — An outspoken anti-abortion protester wants fellow opponents of Edmonton's west-end abortion clinic to help him pay his legal bills.

"There's no darn way I'm going to let all the responsibility for paying the bills fall on my shoulders," said Gerard Liston, 32, who says he has more than \$2,000 in legal bills.

Liston, a part-time Catholic school teacher, says he is representing the whole pro-life movement and the membership should help because it benefits from any publicity he generates.

Liston and fellow anti-abortionist Lianne Laurence, 32, were arrested recently for defying a court injunction preventing them from demonstrating near Dr. Henry Morgentaler's clinic.

Liston was freed after promising to stay away from the clinic. He has been arrested twice since the clinic opened. Laurence has been arrested four times.