

It's your opinion

Tuesday, January 11, 1972

Participation a human need

A recent newscast told of a pack of retarded Cub Scouts from an institution in Oregon who could not get adult leaders. The local penal institution was asked for help and the boys now meet at the prison with the inmates as their leaders and den fathers.

In two years, this arrangement has proved not only advantageous to the children, but rewarding to the inmates. The record now shows these facts:

1. Although some of the inmates refuse to participate in the program at all, not one of those who has volunteered has dropped out.

2. An inmate who has finished his sentence and left the jail wants to come back on Scout night.

3. The necessity for disciplinary measures in the jail has declined sharply.

4. The need for tranquilizing medications has virtually disappeared.

This is a self-evident example of the coexistence of two segments of society whose interaction has turned them from cast-offs into needed, important people.

Would it not be desirable to explore similar possibilities here, such as having dance troupes, orchestral groups, choral societies, etc. do their final rehearsals at institutions such as Willowbrook State School or Sea View Hospital and Home? They have to practice somewhere, and their presence at these places would bring these confined people much joy.

MARTHA MORRONGIELO,
109 Sylvia St.,
Eltingville

DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1972

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

WILLOWBROOK WOES

Queens: If the children at Willowbrook State Hospital were able to protest in the way the inmates at Attica did, Gov. Rockefeller might possibly offer some explanation for his complete indifference to this worse atrocity?
Mrs. RITA JANDA.

Coram: I was appalled to learn through television of the deplorable situation at Willowbrook. Where is the compassion of our city and state officials, and what are the priorities of the state, human life or concrete edifices?
Mrs. ANN GRIGNON.

Central Islip: If parents are truly concerned about the treatment given their children at Willowbrook, why not become volunteer workers and dig in to help take care of the children? I'm sure the staff would welcome the help.
M. M.