

— Editorial Page —

Our opinion

## Better care is a must

Willowbrook State School is having a tough time meeting a court directive that there be a ratio of one attendant for every nine residents there. Which is surprising, because few Islanders had any idea there weren't plenty of people looking for jobs.

Dr. Miodrag Ristig, Willowbrook's director, had said that the ratio should be reached by the end of this month, but now the big problem is turnover. He pointed out that every month about 24 attendants leave their posts — an indication that the jobs are far from easy, and a definite indication that the court-ordered ratio is needed.

It was a shameful thing that the state had to be taken to court to provide what persons interested in the care of the retarded consider a decent minimum of care.

It is to be hoped the ratio of hiring can be achieved sooner. The State School's charges may be below average mentally, but they are humans and deserve to be treated as people.