

It's your opinion

Willowbrook rebuff hurts

An open letter to the people of Building 5 in Willowbrook State School:

I wonder if you all who voted against me feel beautiful? Do you get the feeling when you are in church that God has placed His hand upon your head and says, "Well done, my children?" The Bible says, "What ye do to the least of these, you do unto me." My sincere sympathy and love for this boy is my expression of my love for God and for all the other children.

This is my religion, doing for the unfortunate. One person can not spread it around, it is more than one person can do. To do the same thing for all the children more people have to get involved.

For 10 years I have looked after this unwanted child. He had no other visitors. Do you all really know this boy? Did you know him at eight years old? A poor lost and confused little boy, in with 5,000 other children, until I brought him out of the crowd and brought him to the attention of Dr. Hammond. He would never have been treated in the hospital for five years, and grew to be a tall young man.

When I take him out it seems his eyes can't see enough of all the activity, the people, buses and cars. Mrs. Hammond thought so well of my affection for him she asked if I would take him in to my home as a foster child. I declined because I go to business. If I didn't have my job I couldn't afford to do all the things I do for this boy. Now how can you say I am a bad influence on him?

Do you know his hopes and dreams of a better tomorrow? You say he doesn't think he's retarded. Is that what we are suppose to do? Drill it into their heads that they are retarded, a nothing, and never will be anything? I think they should believe and have faith in themselves, to know they can accomplish their dreams. The Bible says, "Know thy self." You say he thinks he's better than the others. You can't see that he has pride. He loves nice clothes and loves to be clean, even when he was a little fellow and wore the rags of Willowbrook. He would never, never kneel down in the dirt without getting up and brushing himself off. He rejects some of the other boys because they get dirty. Pride in ourselves is something we all should have. One fault he has is a temper. I told him he would have to learn to control it. It is hard for a young person to do. That is something we learn as we get older.

I talked to him about it, isn't that the way? I never punished him for it, as I know it is hard for a young person. It gets them into more trouble. How many older people have learned to control their temper? Have you? I received a free membership for him at the YMCA. I picked him up on Friday evenings to take him swimming. I first gave him his dinner, so that was from 6 till 9 p.m. Then I picked him up Sunday afternoons 2:30 till 7 p.m. That makes 7½ hours a week. You had him 161 hours a week. Wasn't that enough time for you to train him your way? In the 10 years I took him out I also was taking an elderly lady out with two ladies from Building 11. I also took another boy out with this boy. Eventually the other boy went

home to his mother and a year ago my elderly friend passed away at the age of 81. The other two ladies were transferred. That left only this one boy. So I picked him up every Sunday. He enjoyed eating out so very much, as he could order anything he desired. The waitresses got to know him and liked him very much. He always was polite and I was very proud of him. Can you spare him 7½ hours a week? Can I do so much damage to this boy in that short time? Is it because you can't see yourself doing this for an unfortunate boy that you believe it is wrong for me to do it? Some of the attendants have been so happy for him in the past, that one child had it made and may become something for it some day. He would ask me what I wanted him to be when he grew up. I would say the best of whatever you did, just be the best, no one can ask for more. Can you see it in your heart to take another vote? This is my love for my God. God bless all of you.

**MRS. FLORENCE E. BRYT-
CUK,**

315 Decker Ave.,
Port Richmond

(Editor's note: Mrs. Brytcuk is protesting a decision that after 10 years she may no longer visit or take the 17-year-old boy out of Willowbrook because when he returned he is allegedly unable to accommodate with other residents.)