

## It's your opinion

### 'Cancer' at Willowbrook

Being the parent of a child who is a resident of Willowbrook, I believe that I, and my wife, and my daughters, have the knowledge to express an opinion as to the so-called improvements as per the mandate of State Supreme Court Justice Orin Judd.

To this date there has been nothing forthwith as per the mandate with the exception of the decrease in population. That is the only meaningful accomplishment to date. The physical care is still less than that of the ASPCA. The personal care for the profoundly retarded is still the same or worse in many buildings.

The diet has not been changed to any great degree. The so-called goal of education, at Building 3, is still a nonexistent factor. Most important is the total lack of quality in the selection of the employes. Quantity is not the answer — it is quality. To whit — a single sincere employe is a far greater investment than three who do nothing, have no feeling whatsoever for those in their charge and care, who would threaten the lives and well-being of the employe who really is sincere and who is dedicated to doing the best possible job.

So the cancer at Willowbrook remains, and grows and grows, with no one, from the head of the State Department of Mental Health down to the current administration conforming to the class action suit and mandate.

There is surgery available for this cancer. However, there so far are no surgeons willing to take the necessary steps to prepare for the ultimate achievements to which they have supposedly dedicated themselves.

It is with a heavy heart that we face 1976, our Bicentennial year, with the archaic conditions at Willowbrook.

I implore the people of Staten Island and the people of New York State to write your representatives! Please! Demanding that the state mandate be instituted immediately. That we begin now, today, to treat these less fortunate humans as humans. To let them take their place in this life with dignity instead of like animals. Thank you and a Happy New Year to all.

EDWIN J. CLAHESSEY,  
31 Winter Ave.,  
New Brighton

## Ex-worker remembered at center

A plaque in memory of Staten Islander Dr. Joan Pott Giles, who worked for 17 years at Willowbrook Developmental Center, was officially dedicated yesterday at the center.

Dr. Giles, who died Nov. 28, 1973, at the age of 54, began her affiliation with the center in 1956 and labored to help in the control of infectious diseases.

Dr. Giles, a former New Dorp resident, was also a noted pediatrician at Staten Island Hospital. She received her degree in medicine from the New York University School of Medicine.

On hand for the plaque dedication was her husband, Frederick, and Dr. Saul Krugman, nationally recognized expert in infectious disease control and chairman of the department of pediatrics at the New York University School of Medicine.