

# Lamberti proposes Willowbrook goals

Ralph Lamberti, Democratic candidate for the state senate, would like to see the development "of a series of manageable group residences and self-contained learning facilities" on the grounds of Willowbrook Developmental Center.

Claiming the state's methods at Willowbrook "are only barely above the

ground floor," Lamberti, in a position paper, says that small group residences would create a "positive environment" at Willowbrook.

Lamberti says he would like to offer an alternative to what he sees as a "losing race" at Willowbrook, which houses 2,595 retarded persons. Willowbrook is under a federal court order to reduce its population to 250 by 1981 and place its residents in community facilities.

Speaking about the 386 acres of land and numerous buildings on the Willowbrook grounds, Lamberti says he would like to see "a campus in the true educational sense of the word...with several colleges within treating sensible divisions of subjects and skills."

The specialized colleges, as Lamberti sees them, could treat "a sensible division of patients with appropriate programs aimed at maximizing the skills" of Willowbrook residents.

When Willowbrook reduces its population to 250, it is expected that many of the center's buildings will become available for alternate uses. Already the City Planning Commission is studying various land and building proposals.

Lamberti feels it is "most important" to create smaller living facilities on the grounds. The only role the state should play in this concept, he says, is to act as landlord and provider of non-medical services.

Lamberti says certain Staten Island groups—like Staten Island Aid to Retarded Children, Staten Island Mental Health Society and United Cerebral Palsy—should be allowed to sponsor specific programs for residents on the grounds.