

No physically intrusive chemical or biomedical research or experimentation shall be performed"); it also mandated the relocation in neighborhood group homes of all 5,323 residents. The court ordered that at least 50 persons per month be placed in the community—which means the development of about 60 homes per year. By the project's completion in 1981 each community-planning district will have at least five residences. (Currently, due to community opposition, the state is well behind schedule and technically in contempt of court.) Judge Judd had found that institutionalized patients "deteriorate both physically and mentally."

With the consent decree, the shame of the masses had been mollified. But today, over four years later, the same righteous upper and middle classes that hollered for reform have failed to back their words with consistent actions. Rather, they have become the problem they once fought so fervently. As the head of the Department of Mental Hygiene confessed during the Willowbrook exposé: "The way we treat our mentally retarded is our last great disgrace."



"In another place, yes," says Peter Lecourezos as he sits on his front stoop two houses away from a recently opened hostel in Jackson Heights, "but not here—not on this block."

"The most logical thing to do," suggests a protester in Sheepshead Bay, "is to purchase bungalow colonies and small hotels in the Catskills and convert them into residences." One woman worries. "Their windows face my windows. I have a little boy and a daughter."

"These people are afraid of the mentally retarded because they're an unknown," says Jennifer Howse, former executive director of the Review Panel and now an associate commissioner in the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). "The fear is based on the