

## It's your opinion

### Same lawyers didn't represent this group

Your April 16 issue, in the article on the Willowbrook Panel funds, stated that Judge Bartels has concurred with lawyers for the New York State Association for Retarded Citizens, who argue that the state is not being forced to do anything state officials have not previously held to be their moral and legal obligation, I should like to point out to you that there are a number of plaintiffs in this case; that the lawyers for the other plaintiffs do not represent this association, whose name is New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., not Citizens.

We substituted our own lawyers some time ago when lawyers for the other plaintiffs resisted our motion to change the composition of the review panel. Our reasons for requesting this change were many. Among them — a) they did not always act in the best interest of the retarded at Willowbrook; b) that the panel did not have enough people on it conversant with the State of New York, its problems and mechanics, and that furthermore, these lawyers never consulted with this plaintiff in actions that they took on our behalf.

Our motion to change the panel was denied. We are still, however, a plaintiff in that action.

I should like to point out that the bill, introduced at the request of Gov. Carey, limits the maximum compensation that panel members can receive. I leave the reason for this to others to point out.

**JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD,**  
Executive director,

Manhattan

## Fireworks display sparks residents' fears

A series of explosions described as sounding like "muffled bombs" last night caused momentary anxiety on the North Shore as dozens of frightened residents called police and the Advance, fearing that another chemical warehouse in New Jersey had blown up.

Residents from Westerleigh, Willowbrook, Graniteville and New Brighton expressed a concern similar to that expressed by a Grymes Hill man who said, "I hope it's not another chemical explosion."

What residents heard was not a replay of the recent chemical fire in Elizabeth but the sounds of a fireworks display opening the New

York City Special Olympics at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook.

Several residents complained that they had not been notified of the fireworks display, but Dr. David Steindorph, assistant director of the center, said the display had been mentioned in the Advance and had been advertised on posters in the nearby community.

He said the 15-minute fireworks display capped a slate of events that included a parade, horse show and movies.

The Special Olympics will kick off today. Dr. Steindorph promises "there will be no more fireworks."