

# CSEA union leader threatens pullout at UCP facility

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

A union leader at the Staten Island Developmental Center yesterday threatened to instruct his membership to stop working in a Mariners Harbor training center for the disabled because he suspects it poses a fire hazard.

The training center, operated by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of New York State, opened in mid-June with the potential to serve 200 brain-damaged and neurologically impaired residents of the developmental center.

Felton King, president of Local 149 of the Civil Service Employees

Association (CSEA), said he had been denied permission to inspect the training center by UCP director Robert Schoenhorn, who has insisted that occupants are safe.

King said he plans to ask CSEA leadership at the state level to join in pressuring for cooperation from UCP.

Noting that the training center — located in a former indoor tennis facility at 2324 Forest Ave. — lacks a sprinkler system, King said, "We don't want to happen here what happened in New Jersey when 23 people burned to death."

He was referring to fatalities that

resulted from a fire Sunday in a Bradley Beach rooming house occupied by many mentally ill and retarded guests assigned there by the state.

The union leader's complaints about the training center first surfaced during a four-day "sickout" by employees at the Staten Island Developmental Center. The job action, which ended Monday, was used to dramatize union charges of inadequate staffing and maintenance at the Willowbrook institution.

As verbal sparring between the union and the administration continued yesterday, the institution's legal

staff was investigating the possibility that conditions created by the sickout had led to the critical injury of a mentally retarded man.

Michael Hollender, 34, is being treated in St. Vincent's Medical Center for multiple head injuries sustained when he fell Saturday night from a second-story window in Building 7 at the institution.

James Shea, developmental center deputy director, said yesterday that Hollender's ward did not meet staffing requirements Saturday because of employees who called in sick. Only one worker was watching 17 residents, some with se-

Page 1 of 2