



Some of the 100 workers who occupied Building 1 at the Staten Island Developmental Center.

S.I. Advance Photo by Robert Parsons

Willowbrook protesters demand immediate return of docked pay

By DOUGLAS PATRICK

More than 100 Staten Island Developmental Center workers — angered after being docked pay for an alleged sickout last month — occupied the administration building through the night and vowed to stay until they're paid the money they say they deserve.

Although the number staying in the building had dwindled to about 20 this morning, as some workers returned to their posts to serve breakfast to center residents, or returned home, a spokesman for the group said the protest will continue.

"Some people have left to help

their co-workers get breakfast out and some have gone home to shower, but they're all coming back," Jeri Bell, an employee union representative said.

Of the 800 basic resident-care employees that called in sick during the four-day period from July 24 to July 27, administration officials docked 371 people who did not produce any proof, such as a doctor's note, that theirs was a legitimate absence, the officials said.

"During this four-day period there were an inordinate number of sick calls by employees of the residential buildings," said James Shea, developmental center deputy direc-

tor.

"As a result of this, we requested that all these people bring in a doctor's note or some proof that they were actually sick by the deadline last Aug. 4," Shea said.

"Those who were out as part of the sickout were docked pay for the time they missed," Shea said.

Officials of union Local 149 of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), who denied the absences constituted a sickout, said that no worker was compelled to produce a doctor's note under their current contract unless they had

(Continued on Page A 3)