

UCP is best choice for patient guardian

Your article on the ongoing attempt of the United Cerebral Palsy organization to obtain guardianship rights on some of its clients was very biased, and obviously presented a distorted view of the facts. If you had bothered to read the articles in the Advance of a few years ago, you would have recalled now the Staten Island Developmental Center, alias Willowbrook, took care of its clients when the state was the holder of the rights and responsibilities of guardian. Lest we forget, a client is a human being who is being cared for by some agency. From the accounts that were presented in the press and on television, we learned of a "horror" story of poor care, mismanagement and tragedy perpetrated on these clients by the state. The grossness of this mismanagement was such that eventually the courts were forced to react and the Willowbrook Consent Decree was enacted.

There seems to be three choices presented in your article about who should decide what is best for a particular individual. The choices are the state, the absentee parent or the UCP Agency...

The ability of the state to care for these individuals has been amply demonstrated by the previous history of the Willowbrook complex. The organization that mismanaged its responsibility certainly cannot be trusted to act with the best interest of anyone.

The absentee parent has explicitly decided that he or she cannot, or does not want to, make any decisions concerning the well-being of the child...

Thus we are left with the aging. We all know that no agency is perfect. Nor is any organization totally altruistic. However, UCP has demonstrated superior traits in the Carl D. Warner Complex. Anyone who associates with the UCP organization experiences the positive caring attitude that it applies to its clients.

While in a more perfect world, a much better alternative would be available, what alternative is now available? The agency is obviously the best available solution...

J. N. FRISINA,

Willowbrook

The Advance welcomes your opinion. Letters must not exceed 300 words in length, and it would be appreciated if they were typewritten. Letters will not be considered for publication without the signature and street address of the writer; addresses, however, will not be published. Address letters to: "It's your opinion," Staten Island Advance, 950 Fingerboard Rd., Staten Island, N.Y. 10305.

Group home causing neighbors problems

We the residents of Buel Ave. are petitioning to let you know our feelings about the group homes that are being forced into the communities of Staten Island. We are all new homeowners in a lovely community. To our shock we were told that the residence at 490 Buel Ave. was leased to the state to house the mentally retarded. We were not made aware of this until the papers were signed. We feel that it was done very underhanded. It was unfair and

untrustworthy of the agencies and all people that were involved not to let us voice our opinion on this matter that concerns a new community of taxpaying citizens.

We would like you to be made aware of an incident that occurred on March 12 at the group home, 490 Buel Ave. A police car was parked in front of the residence, then an ambulance came and removed one of the persons out of the premises in a straight jacket. At that time there were children playing in the street. They went to the door of the group home and were looking in to see what was going on. On another occasion one of the patients did not want to enter the car and the attendant had to bodily force her into the car. If these people are classified as mentally retarded why should they be so violent that they have to be removed from the premises in a straight jacket?

As concerned parents and taxpayers we would like to know if you think this is an environment for a community of families with growing children to be exposed to. We hope that the bureaucrats are made aware of our feelings in this matter, and try to find another solution to this problem.

MARIE FARGIANO,
Concerned Citizens of Dongan Hills
and Staten Island,
Dongan Hills