

tally retarded on Staten Island, has asked for a record of purchases from the boutique for selected patients in recent months. United Cerebral Palsy has failed to respond, according to Anthony Pinto, a Be-nevolent Society trustee.

Another parent, who preferred anonymity, succeeded two years ago in securing data from the agency on the wardrobe of his 28-year-old son, a Warner Center resident.

Like the old "traveling store," the boutique failed to guarantee well-fitting garments. The records, called personal inventory cards, contained wide variations in size, although the parent said his son's weight was constant. Briefs and T-shirts ranged from sizes 14 to 18, while pajamas shifted from sizes 10 to 20.

"My son's pants are rolled up 10 times instead of being cut off and hemmed," the parent said. "His legs are short, he's spastic, but they dress him like you wouldn't care."

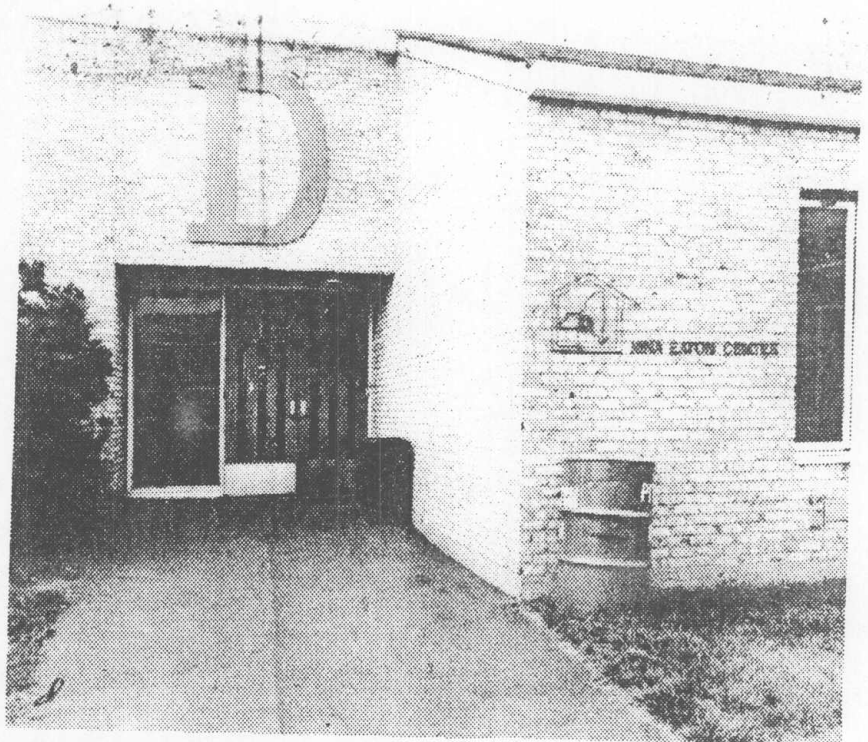
A recent memorandum circulated by the agency reinforced the impression of employees and parents that United Cerebral Palsy disposes of money without strict guidelines.

On Feb. 19, R. Keith Penman, then associate director of the Warner Center, signed a memo instructing building administrators to order winter jackets from the boutique for all 450 residents of the seven-building complex. "If the resident presently has a winter jacket," he wrote, "please order one anyway."

Penman wrote that Carmen Scifo, the boutique manager, had stocked "a large amount" of coats, only to discover she had overestimated the demand.

United Cerebral Palsy declared a \$53,744 income, in commercial terms a profit, from the boutique in 1980. The agency's annual Medicaid cost report, filed in March with the state, does not disclose the amount of money, in either Medicaid or personal funds, spent on clothing.

Kevin Travis, deputy commissioner of quality assurance in the Office for Mental Retardation, said federal Medicaid regulations require any income generated by the boutique to be deducted from the agency's future Medicaid reimbursement. He said he was not aware of the agency's reliance on personal funds to purchase clothing.



**The Nina Eaton Center on the grounds of the South Beach Psychiatric Center, Ocean Breeze, is a store where the retarded under the care of United Cerebral Palsy are obliged to buy clothing and shoes, sometimes using personal funds and at markups as high as 94 percent.**

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