

### Series should help care of disabled

The Consumer Advisory Board of the Willowbrook Class wishes to commend Ms. Hartocollis and the Staten Island Advance for the informative series of articles concerning United Cerebral Palsy of New York State. We are hopeful that the appropriate governmental bodies will follow through to determine the extent of the allegations and will take whatever steps necessary to rectify the problems which do exist.

In our capacity as advocates for members of the Willowbrook Class who do not have families available to represent them, the Consumer Advisory Board has responsibility for a number of individuals who reside in UCP of N.Y. State programs. We are very concerned about the need to provide monitoring of community placements to prevent abuse of the system which could jeopardize the health and welfare of clients. Comprehensive monitoring activities must not only include those programs administered by the voluntary agencies, but also provide for objective evaluation of the increasing number of state-operated programs. Adequate resources must be allocated to support monitoring and technical assistance.

It is also important to note the many benefits which have been derived by the clients who have participated in the UCP of N.Y. State programs. Individuals represented by the Consumer Advisory Board have made significant strides in their development through the opportunities provided and the expertise of the staff who are responsible for delivering care and the needed clinical programming.

Community placements which permit the maximum development of their clients must be continued.

Thank you for your continued interest in the welfare of the developmentally disabled.

**ANN NEHRBAUER,**  
Willowbrook

### Willowbrook woes must be resolved

I refer to series of articles in recent issues of your newspaper with reference to United Cerebral Palsy of New York State, and your most recent article July 5 on your editorial page. Who really cares? I do. The entire Willowbrook history is a long and sad case which could make strong men cry.

Surely UCP New York State should be investigated in whatever wrongdoing it has been involved. But the reason maybe the State of New York will not lean too hard on UCP NYS in this investigation is that it needs UCP. The State of New York could not maintain the Willowbrook services if it were to dismiss UCP. Then who would take it over? The State of New York surely is not capable, as shown in years gone by. The Carey administration has, however, been able to maneuver every political string to avoid the implementation of mandates and court rulings. Why have none been met by the dates they were supposed to? There are many unanswered questions and conditions still at Willowbrook, and with the lack of qualified individuals to handle the operations of a facility of its size, it will never be corrected.

It boils down to one thing, lack of knowledge, lack of understanding, but, not lack of money because there is plenty of money for education, housing and medical services if qualified. As a parent I can say my wife and I went through many a day of hard times, but fortunately we didn't institutionalize our child and if the hundreds of other children who are in Willowbrook today had a chance for a family life, a homesetting, then maybe there would be no Willowbrook today. But that is the way it is, that is the way it will be, until someone who really cares comes along and can have the authority to go into Willowbrook and change it

around for the better once and for all. As a member of the board of directors of UCP New York City (not New York State) I can say we care, but many more people must feel the same before the situation can change. The daily routine will go on for years to come unless someone will listen to those who live at Willowbrook.

**JOHN W. WEAVER,**  
Great Kills