

# Drug raid nets 10 at S.I. home for the retarded

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With Thomas Raftery and Mary Engels

Ten workers at a Staten Island center for the mentally retarded were arrested yesterday for selling heroin, cocaine and LSD to co-workers and customers who slipped through security posts.

Police said the workers—including a supervisor—apparently did not sell drugs to patients of the facility, the Staten Island Developmental Center at 2760 Victory Blvd. The center was formerly known as Willowbrook State School.

"People would just drive up to the place and buy drugs," one cop said.

Capt. Charles McGuire of the Brooklyn South narcotics squad said the suspects were "independent operators" who sold the drugs in amounts ranging from \$10 to \$30.

Nine of the suspects were arrested as they arrived for work yesterday morning. The other was nabbed at home. Cops said one of the suspects

was carrying \$300 worth of drugs when arrested.

**ALL WERE CHARGED** with felony sale of narcotics.

Eight of the suspects are from Staten Island. They are: Gordon James, 28, of 51 Arnold St., a supervisor; Peter Etheridge, 40, and Penny Chavis, 25, of 178 Loughlin Ave; Theodore Handy, 40, of 175 Trantor Place; Ida Rodriguez, 25, of 197 Gordon St.; Jacob Gibens, 35, of 50 N. Burger Ave.; Herman Mickens, 40, of 1030 Post Ave.,



Dr. Ella Curry

and Maurice Valentine, 30, of 91 Wayne Terrace.

The others are from New Jersey. They were identified as James Ward, 38, of Newark, and Laverine Leverage, 35, of Bayonne.

The center's director, Dr. Ella Curry, said that although security at the center had been beefed up, it was impossible to keep track of everyone who comes onto the grounds.