

## Supreme Court

# Jury convicts Islander for selling drugs

A former employee at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, faces a prison term of up to 25 years following her conviction in state Supreme Court on a charge of selling heroin.

The defendant, Helen Chavis of 60 Park Hill Ave., Clifton, a 31-year-old mother, will be sentenced as a second-felony offender April 3 by Justice Louis Sangiorgio. Her previous felony conviction also involved narcotics. The judge permitted her to remain free on \$750 bail until sentencing.

A jury deliberated four hours to end the three-day trial.

The defendant was accused of selling two envelopes of heroin, weighing a total of four grains, or less than a hundredth of an ounce, to a police undercover agent Feb. 9, 1983, near Building F, where she was employed as a mental hygiene therapist aide. The officer said he paid her \$40 for the drug.

The undercover agent testified that he was accompanied by a confidential informant when he picked up the defendant at another building and drove her to Building F, where he said the transaction took place in the car. The informant did not testify.

The defendant denied being in the car with the undercover agent and the informant. She claimed that the agent was mistaken in his identification of her as the drug seller.

The arrest of the defendant was among 10 made by police at the time in an attempt to break up a drug operation run by center employees.

The defendant was represented by Michael Brennan of the Legal Aid Society. He was opposed by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Koller.