

It's your opinion

Tree destruction fault of board

The Staten Island community must now be aware of the outrageous destruction that has recently been allowed to occur to the second most environmentally valuable land on Staten Island. The area called Corson's Brook Woods, which borders Forest Hill Road and is part of the Staten Island Developmental Center, has been brutally raped.

On the day after Election Day, a contractor was told to come in and start clearing the land opposite Pilcher Street so that group homes might be built. This was done even though this land had been requested by the city for inclusion in the protected Greenbelt area; a task force to determine the disposition of *all* parts of SIDC has yet to make a public report (Assemblyman Straniere, who is on this task force, was not made aware that such building was actually about to proceed); Assemblywoman Connelly stated in July that no such action would take place without adequate input from the community (she went on vacation after Election Day, and was conve-

niently unavailable); and there is enormous open acreage on the grounds where the homes could be built without cutting down a single tree!

Worst of all, it appears that in September, Community Board 2 received a surprise visit from Mr. Walsh, the director of SIDC, and in the absence of any opposing viewpoint from citizens knowledgeable on this issue, the board voiced no objection to the rape.

At present, this issue is being argued in court, with the Protectors of the Pine Oak Woods, and the New York City Corporation Counsel as well as the Parks Department also involved. However, given the way this matter was handled, there are genuine concerns about how Community Board 2 will respond to the issue of the disposition of the Farm Colony and Sea View.

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