

=It's your opinion=

Environmentalists oppose destruction

The map accompanying a recent analysis article in the Ad-

vance incorrectly implies that we have recommended site B, north of Corson's Brook Woods, as an alternate location for the group homes. We wonder where the site B location came from since we have never seen it listed previously. Our proposal, issued in mid-July, recommends a location south of Corson's Brook Woods along the Loop Road within SIDC, opposite the staff-administration "cottages" which now serve as group homes. We understand the Department of City Planning has also proposed a number of alternate sites within the 90 acres requested by OMRDD...

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods supports building of group homes in the community and building of group homes at SIDC

in order to permit multiply handicapped disabled persons to be located in close proximity to the Institute for Basic Research, a service facility.

It is distressing that advocates of the retarded accuse our organization of prejudice against the retarded and of support for trees above people. Our volunteer efforts to save the best of Staten Island's natural areas are for the people, for the enjoyment and health of the people. We are opposed to *any* construction in the Corson's Brook Woods. If a library or home were proposed for construction there, we would object. Would we then be prejudiced against libraries and homes? Furthermore, we have not attacked the advocates for the retarded for opposition to

the Greenbelt or our Island's natural heritage...

We did not complain about the ongoing process of extensive tree removal near the New Springville Little League fields because it was not brought to our attention. It is the state's responsibility to supervise the lands it leases. Therefore, instead of blaming us for our lack of concern and negligence, we believe Mr. Walsh should accept responsibility for tree removal on state property, rather than accusing us of inaction due to prejudice against the retarded.

There is room to accommodate both the needs of the handicapped and the need for a Greenbelt at SIDC. The arrogant, insensitive garrison mentality which has been the trademark of some state officials has turned what could and should have become an effective, sensitive planning decision into a battle pitting supporters of what is best for Staten Island against each other in an unnecessary, unhelpful, legally and emotionally expensive and disgraceful conflict.

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