

Willowbrook series was commendable

The following was sent to reporter Julie Mack:

Congratulations on your fine series of articles [about the Willowbrook Consent Decree.] You have provided the community of Staten Island with a genuine service, detailing the events of the last 10 years since the signing of the Willowbrook Consent Judgment. It is my hope, as I am sure yours, that these articles will serve to heighten community awareness to the continuing problems of the disabled and make the job of us service providers a little bit easier.

In particular, the last article, which included the story on Doug Desterdick, was very moving and demonstrated how appropriate community placements can be for the severely disabled individuals.

The only concern I had is with Thursday's article. There were three pictures in this article that were identified as activities or programs at the Richmond Complex which were credited to United Cerebral Palsy. As you know, it has been one year since our organization worked within the confines of Richmond Complex. Therefore, I feel the credit for the positive aspects reflected in these pictures should have gone to Staten Island Developmental Center.

Once again, let me congratulate you on a very fine series of reports, and I trust that the input from United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State was a benefit.

R. KEITH PENMAN

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(The writer is regional director of United Cerebral Palsy of New York State.)