

## Residencies plan should go through

The following was sent to Gov. Mario Cuomo:

"I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed building site for residences for the developmentally disabled at Corson Brook Woods. I strongly support the construction of the residences on the state-owned land at Corson Brook Woods. The mentally retarded people now at Staten Island Developmental Center who would eventually live in the new structures deserve the best. For years, they have lived in an institutional setting, often times to their detriment. The proposed site offers them an attractive environment which meets their needs and gives them full access to the community.

"The alternative site, lying as it does inside the gates of Willowbrook, merely creates another institution and again isolates and devalues the developmentally disabled people who have a right to become members of the community. We do not need another segregated colony of the disadvantaged.

"It has been shown that the proposed site would not adversely affect the environment. Few trees would be removed, and those many remaining would provide a beautiful, wooded setting for the residents. I urge you to resist the pressures to build on the Willowbrook site. I believe these pressures are borne of fear and misunderstanding on the parts of well-intentioned but ill-advised groups. The developmentally disabled people whose future is at stake cannot advocate for themselves. Please support them in gaining the full citizenship which they have for so long been denied."

**FIORIELLO CICERO**

Great Kills