

# Editorial

## OUR OPINION

### 'Concerns' and bias

**W**hen people are shopping for a new home, they have their own set of criteria to gauge the candidate houses they see. The kitchen might be too small in one, or the living room in another doesn't get enough afternoon sun or there's not enough closet space in a third.

HeartShare, a Brooklyn-based social services provider, thought it had found the perfect community residence on End Place in Greenridge for six mildly to moderately retarded young adults, all of whom are Staten Islanders themselves who wanted to live in their home borough to be with their family and friends.

This time, it was the neighbors, abetted by Community Board 3, that came up with a list of things wrong with the place: It wasn't near enough to public transportation or stores; it wasn't the right neighborhood for them, and so on and so on. The only thing they left out was that the living room didn't get enough sun. As a result of those often ferociously articulated "concerns" about the ultimate happiness of the prospective residents in their new neighborhood — coupled with a few veiled threats — Community Board 3 caved in and recommended against approval of HeartShare's purchase of the End Place residence, citing the same concerns.

*By Perumalla*

*1/1/00*