

# Staten Island

DAILY NEWS, Sunday, May 6, 1990

## They can dig S.I. college campus

By **MARY ENGELS**  
Daily News Staff Writer

**C**ONSTRUCTION of the new \$400 million College of Staten Island, on the grounds of the former Staten Island Developmental Center at Willowbrook, will begin May 15.

Edmond Volpe, the college's president, said, "We are just about through demolishing the majority of the buildings that had to come down and we will be moving forward on construction as quickly as possible."

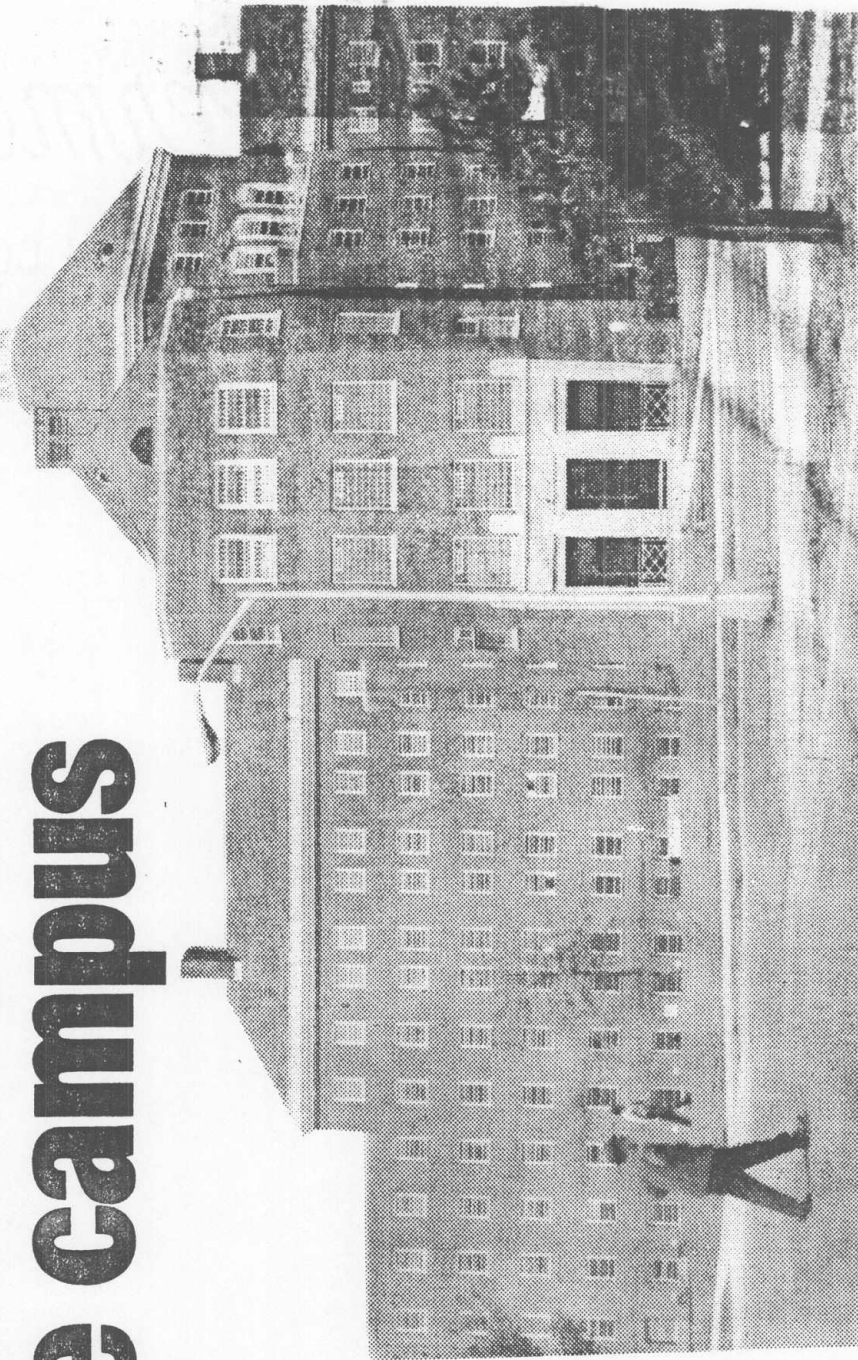
The move to the new 204-acre campus is anticipated by the fall of 1992. Volpe said that it was more than a decade ago that space was sought to house the college at one location.

It is currently based at St. George and Sunnyside.

A few years ago, as the Staten Island Developmental Center was being phased out, it was suggested by state officials that its site be used for a new campus for the College of Staten Island.

The New York State Dormitory Authority

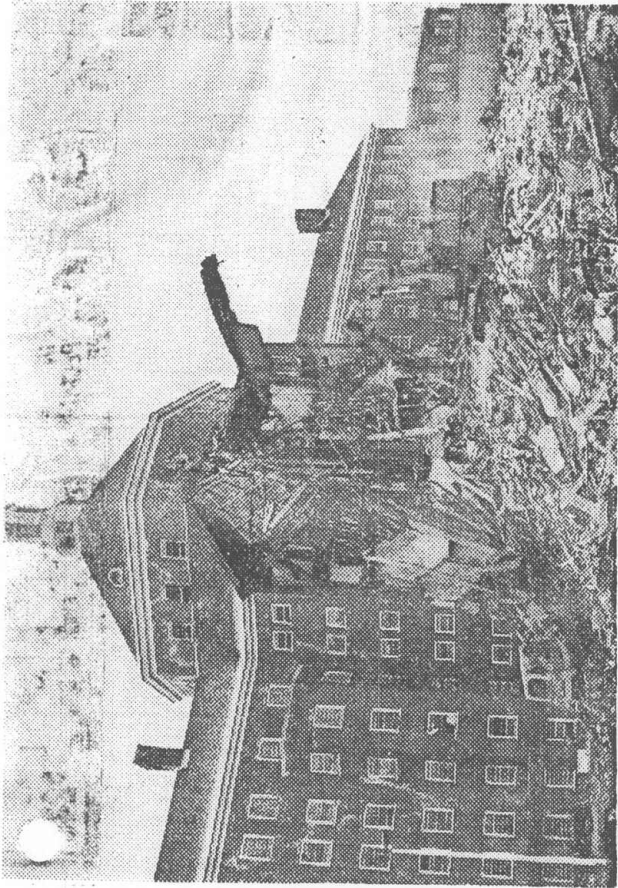
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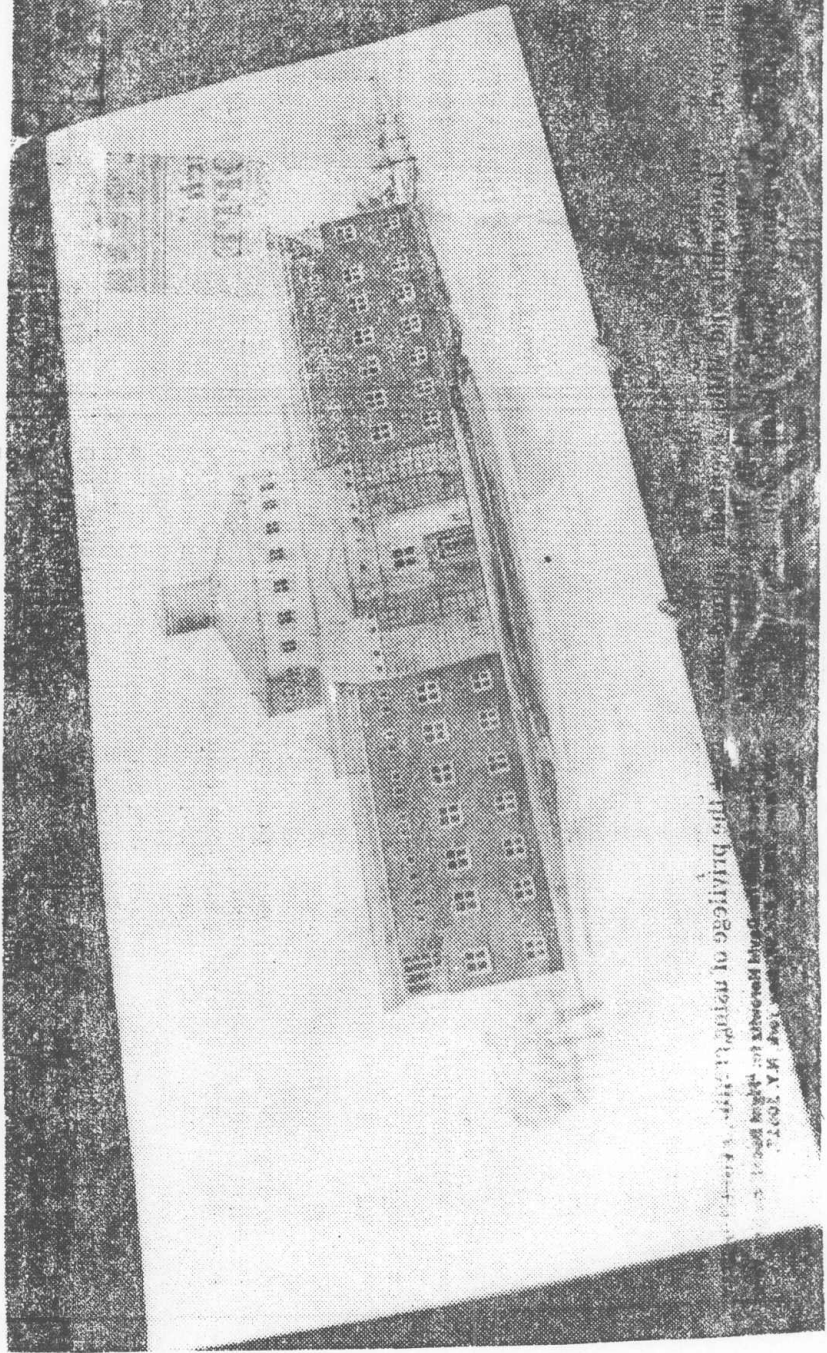
**ALTHOUGH** some of the buildings at the old Staten Island Developmental Center at Willowbrook were spared for use at the new College of Staten Island campus, main structure (shown above in 1968 photo) fell to the wrecker recently. Observing the demolition (below) were college president Edmond Volpe (c.) with architects Ralph Tilleli (l.) and Kenneth Klindworth.



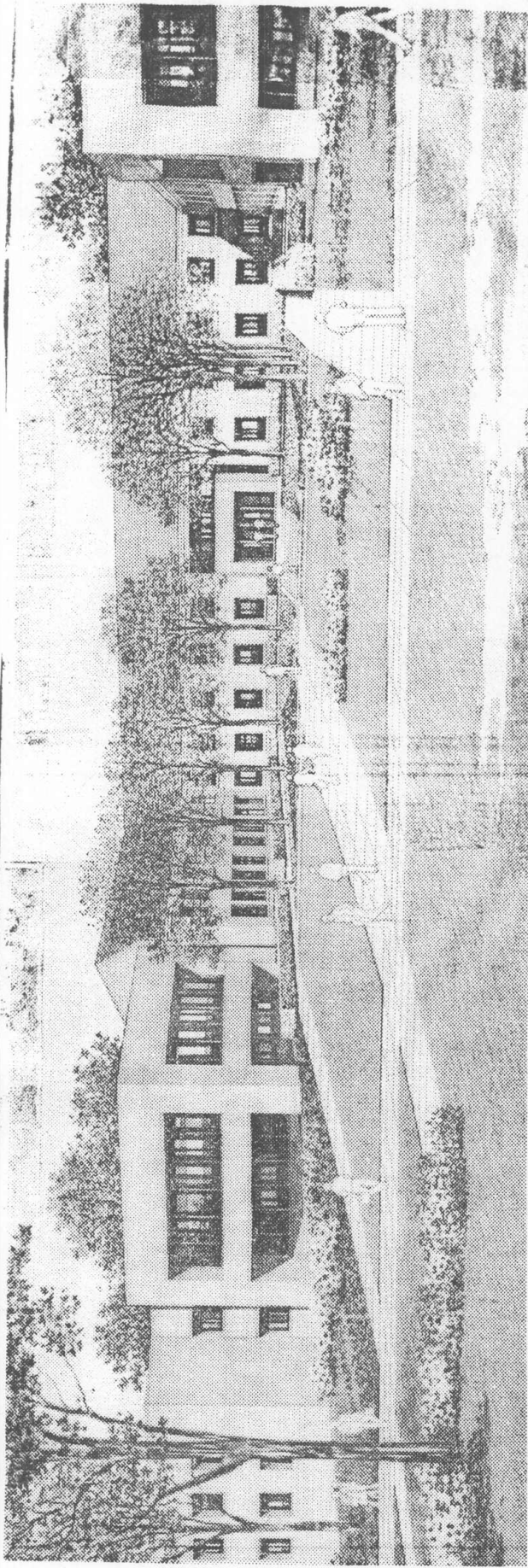




**ONE OF THE MAIN** buildings literally bites the dust to make room for new campus. Below, College of Staten Island president Edmond Volpe looks at drawing of new library.



...the privilege of giving...  
...the building of...  
...the College of Staten Island...  
...Edmond Volpe, President...



**ARCHITECT'S** rendering depicts typical classroom building as it would appear on new College of Staten Island campus.

# College of S.I. readies new digs

**COLLEGE FROM PAGE ONE**  
 thory, through the sale of bonds, financed the project with \$400 million.

Volpe said, "It was the largest-cost project ever undertaken by the authority for one facility."

Michael Petrides, the dean of administration at the College of Staten Island and the executive in charge of the new campus development, said, "There is no campus in the city, public or private, that will be as large as this one in terms of space."

"It is truly a one of a kind for the city of New York, bar none," Petrides said.

Where Willowbrook had more than 30 buildings on the site, the college plans about 18.

College officials said that they plan to renovate 10 buildings for academic use, three for administration, and one will be used for campus services.

The existing power plant also will be upgraded.

New buildings will include a library, student center, major science building with research laboratories, a performing and creative arts theater complex, and a gym, which will house one of the largest swimming pools on the Island. The buildings will be characterized by low masonry structures of a traditional 18th-century Georgian design constructed of brick, limestone, and tile, all set in a park-like atmosphere.

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The master construction plan includes two academic cores surrounding the Student Center in the North Quadrangle and the library on the South Quadrangle.

The two quadrangles will be linked by a tree-lined pedestrian street.

Recreation fields will be on the western portion of the site, providing a landscaped setting for the entrance to the new campus.

Parking space will triple in size compared to the present space at the other two college sites.

Petrides said that to help bring the project in under the \$400 million budget, the renovation and construction work has been divided into "small packages," most not exceeding \$20 million.

"We have been catching a good bid cycle due to the construction market's coming down," he said.

Petrides anticipates that by the end of the summer more than 1,200 con-

struction workers will be on the site, making it "one of the largest construction projects ever attempted on the Island."

Another plus, he feels, is the proximity of the new campus to the Institute for Basic Research, the Elizabeth Connelly Center, and the community resource for the developmentally disabled, all of which will be incorporated into the college's curriculum.

Petrides said, "Our doctoral students will be able to study the field of mental retardation and work directly with residents and researchers."