

Moratorium on group homes
 Pataki's budget proposal calls for a moratorium on all community-based residences, including group homes for the developmentally disabled.

While this won't affect any group homes currently in operation or those being readied for occupancy, it will prohibit all new construction, said Byrne of OMRDD.

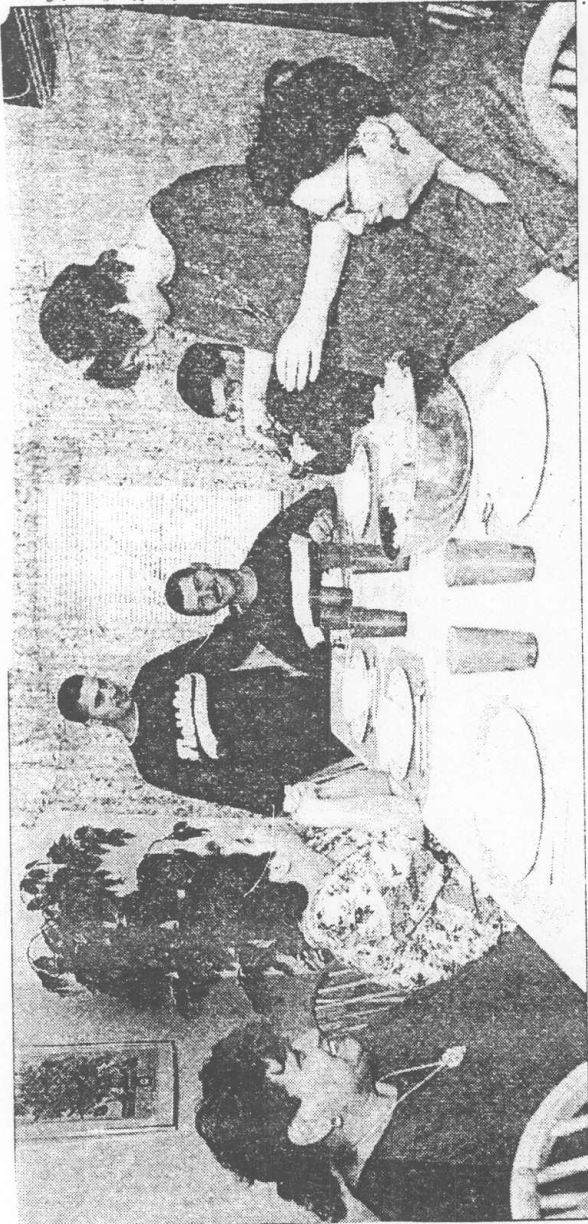
In fact, a recent proposal by the Center for Family Support to operate a group home in an Annandale townhouse likely will be turned down by the state.

Byrne said the group home planned for 12 Challenger Dr. for three developmentally disabled women is not included in Pataki's proposed budget.

The state will continue to provide family support services for the developmentally disabled through its many programs, Byrne said. People won't be totally locked out of group homes. As vacancies open, he said, people will be placed. But the waiting list for people waiting for placement is a long one, he said.

Tomorrow: The Island's homeless situation.

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Staff members and residents gather for dinner in the Great Kills group home. From left are staffer Maria Crespo; resident, Wendy Cogan; staff member, Tito Cruz; and residents Jim Gordon, Joseph Thomas, Adrienne Biviano and Meryl Moskowitz.



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Cynthia Kirkwood, manager of the group home, left, plays a board game with residents Joseph Thomas and Meryl Moskowitz.