

Hammond story draws rebuke

I feel I must express my feelings about the article by Mr. DeMaria on Monday, Jan. 8.

I am appalled, shocked and hurt over the article, "Dr. Hammond Showed Courage." Let sleeping dogs lie — that is the only way we can deal with Dr. Hammond.

Yes, I agree that Dr. Hammond was a scapegoat, but there is no room at Willowbrook for a scapegoat when residents are dying. Money was surely not the reason why Dr. Hammond did not make changes at Willowbrook. It is right now being proven in Federal Court how radical beneficial changes could have been made without any budget increases through resources presently available at the school. But Dr. Hammond chose to ignore these suggestions. Those were the workers he fired — the ones with the suggestions — hence he turned his face on Willowbrook and bowed to Albany.

You talked about grace under pressure. When the union went on strike Dr. Hammond was caught with thousands to feed and care for. He went to sleep Saturday night while the parents and other volunteers stayed 'round the clock. He sat in his little air-conditioned office and conferred with cohorts. He never came out to take a public stand.

How can a man who admits to spending two days with Dr. Hammond be allowed to print such an article? A man who cannot possibly know the conditions that existed then and that have not changed since.

Mr. DeMaria, please get your information before you jump in with such inspired stories.

**MRS. FREDDA ISAACS,
Parent**

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