

# It's your opinion

## *Wants reevaluation of Willowbrook policy*

Your April 14 article on the Willowbrook rape suspect stated that the young man "might never be tried because there was a doubt regarding his ability to understand" what he has allegedly done. It seems to me, the real doubt is whether or not the administrative hierarchy at Willowbrook has the ability to follow a sane course in the carrying out of its responsibilities.

Your article indicates that the suspect's general behavior was known to the administration. In their own words, he had "a low boiling point," was "damaged in a great many ways ... one of the hardest to reach..." involved in "assaultive type incidents," but free to come and go. Somehow, the fact the "assaultive type incidents" occurred on the grounds of Willowbrook seemed to negate their importance.

Maybe there isn't enough money to do a first rate job at Willowbrook. Maybe there should be a complete psychiatric unit on the grounds. Maybe the suspect was misplaced. But given the realities — the maybes are irrelevant — would it not have been a mere exercise of common sense to have kept that particular young man on the grounds?

Wouldn't an ordinary sense of responsibility toward the young man and the community warrant protecting both from his being unable to cope with an unrestricted, unpredictable environment?

Can we at least hope that this tragic incident will bring about a reevaluation of the relevant policies at Willowbrook and a greater exercise of responsibility in the future?

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