

4 crash gate, beat guard at Willowbrook

A guard at the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook was beaten yesterday by four men who were leaving the center.

Timothy Burks, 39, suffered head and shoulder injuries inflicted by his own nightstick, which the thugs took from him. He was treated in St. Vincent's Medical Center and later released.

According to police, Burks was on duty at the center's front gate when a van broke through the wooden barricade before it was raised out of the way. When Burks approached the van to question its driver, the driver began punching him.

Three other men jumped from the van, one grabbed Burks' nightstick, and the four beat him up, police said. A fellow officer, who refused to be identified, said last night that although Burks called for assistance, no one came to his aid for some time.

"There's a lot of garbage going on in this place," another guard said, adding, "We're not armed in here, you know what I mean?" Police said the incident took place a few minutes after 6 p.m.

Detective Michael Marino of the Crimes Against Persons Squad is investigating the incident.