

Your opinion

Fear of retarded based on ignorance

I address this to all the angry Westerleigh residents who attended the Sept. 3 meeting in regard to a proposed group home for profoundly retarded adults.

Those of you who were outraged and even suggested that these beautiful child-like loving human beings down the value of your homes or even kill one of you, should be ashamed of yourselves.

I wish for one day out of your life you could be in the shoes of a retarded person. Just when I thought that times have really changed and people were more accepting of our retarded neighbors, people like you come along and make me remember that you exist with your prejudiced views.

You see I have a retarded daughter and let me tell you, of my three children, which I love all very dearly, she is a true friend, a beautiful, loving, innocent human being and the love of my life, my husband's and my two sons. There is not one day that I regret her being here.

The only thing I do regret is people such as yourselves, who would look down at my loving child and wish she did not exist. What are you afraid of? This population and the wonderful people who take care of them deserve a medal, for they do a terrific job. People like you should take lessons from our very special population.

They are here to stay and have the same rights we all have. If it were up to people like you, Willowbrook State School would still exist.

Good luck to the Independent Living Association and all who support your hard work so that our special world will have a better quality of life.

PATRICIA ORLANDO
Bulls Heads