

# Restore human services budget

It's time to restore Dane County cuts to human services. Two sad articles in the local section of Wednesday's Wisconsin State Journal merit comment. The first describes a sexual assault in her own apartment upon a woman with a developmental disability, and the second reports that a man accused in a knife assault upon a social worker has been ruled incompetent.

Citizens with developmental disabilities are vulnerable and deserve support. Great strides in community living have been made, but chronic under funding of human services limits staff time available to support, train and protect vulnerable citizens. Staff and client relationships suffer when staff turnover occurs due to limited career options and low pay. Independent living requires quality staff support.

Continued cuts to human services may leave some citizens with mental health treatment needs under served or relegated to waiting lists. Let's take pride in our community-based services for vulnerable citizens and restore the Dane County cuts to human services.

— *Richard C. Berling, Madison Area Rehabilitation Centers executive director*