

## **Forum: Mental illness and its treatment are nothing to laugh at**

Posted Mar 17, 2013 at 12:01 AM

Updated Mar 17, 2013 at 4:06 PM

This past weekend's announcement of a new comedy — “Padded Room,” with its adjectives of “Liquid Lithium” and “Nut House” — certainly caught our attention. But it is no laughing matter, nor should a decent respect for our fellow man make it a laughing matter.

This past weekend's announcement of a new comedy — “Padded Room,” with its adjectives of “Liquid Lithium” and “Nut House” — certainly caught our attention. But it is no laughing matter, nor should a decent respect for our fellow man make it a laughing matter.

Mental illness, like any illness that strikes us whether it be cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's, etc., is a tragedy for both patients and their families. Mental illness is not some odd character flaw in a person to chuckle at; it's a terrifying and disabling disease.

The only good news here is that with the right treatment, recovery is not only possible but highly probable.

John F. Gilligan, Ph.D.

President and CEO, Human Service Center

Peoria