

NAPA

NETWORK AGAINST PSYCHIATRIC ASSAULT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: NAPA DEMONSTRATES AT ST. MARY'S - PUBLIC FORUM DEMANDED

The Network Against Psychiatric Assault (NAPA) will continue its campaign against the controversial psychiatric treatment program at St. Mary's McAuley Neuropsychiatric Institute Saturday, June 14 with a rally in front of the hospital at 12 Noon.

In response to St. Mary's recent refusal to demonstrate its "sheeting" procedure for television cameras because "it would be too controversial," the Proud Paranoids Theatre Troupe will accomodate the cameras with dramatic guerilla theatre, including a "sensational" demonstration of the sheeting experience.

Sheeting is a technique of control and punishment used routinely at St. Mary's. The inmate is wrapped tightly in bed sheets like a mummy and then secured to a bed for hours at a time, sometimes day after day. 10-15 inmates a week, out of a total of about 30 on the Children's Unit, are subjected to this procedure. Testimony from former staff and inmates indicate that sheeting is not limited to the restraint of violent individuals, but rather is used frequently to punish argumentative and uncooperative behavior.

NAPA also asserts that St. Mary's employs a number of other harmful, coercive techniques. "Sleep therapy," for example, consists of rendering people unconscious for days at a time with heavy doses of psychiatric drugs.

Another dubious method involves the assignment of nonsensical, pointless "work tasks" which inmates are forced to perform or else be subjected to punishment, such as sheeting.

Young people who have refused to bathe as instructed have been compelled to stay in their tubs for long periods without being allowed to add hot water.

Many legal rights, such as the right to private, unmonitored conversations with attorneys and relatives, are routinely violated.

In general, according to NAPA, St. Mary's is an unusually harsh, authoritarian and punitive institution. The forms of behavior modification being inflicted on people against their will at St. Mary's constitute a horrifying violation of basic human rights and therefore pose a serious threat to the liberty of everyone.

NAPA intends to alert the public to these abuses as a first step to correcting them. Presently, more than 40 community organizations support NAPA's demand that St. Mary's engage in a public forum to debate these issues openly and thoroughly.

Joining NAPA and the Proud Paranoids Saturday will be people who have worked or been locked up at St. Mary's, as well as representatives from community organizations who are supporting NAPA's efforts to pressure St. Mary's into engaging in a public forum.



DIG THE SKELETONS OUT OF ST. MARY'S CLOSET

Rally, Saturday, June 14, 12 noon

St. Mary's Hospital, Stanyan & Hayes



Some of the barbaric practices going on now at St. Mary's are:

- 1) Sheeting - wrapping up inmates in sheets like a mummy when they get too "uppity";
- 2) Sleep Therapy - knocking victims out with drugs for days at a time;
- 3) Police Conspiracy - the indiscriminate acceptance of juveniles referred by Youth Guidance Center or brought in by the police for "adjustment."



SUPPORT THE INMATES ---- DEMAND AN OPEN DEBATE

McAuley Neuropsychiatric Institute, operated by St. Mary's Hospital, has been described by former inmates and staff as being highly oppressive, cruel and authoritarian in its "treatment" of people against their will. Many of these people have documented their experiences with written statements. Consequently, supported by more than 40 community organizations, NAPA (Network Against Psychiatric Assault) is demanding that St. Mary's engage in a public forum with NAPA to discuss publicly the psychiatric program at St. Mary's.

For more info, call NAPA, 863-4488, or drop by 2150 Market Street, near Church.