



Why No Story On Giant Mental Health Rally?

Schenectady Gazette Letter to the Editor

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On Jan. 23 I participated in a mental health housing rally in Albany, which included meeting on the steps of the state Capitol. I believe there were between 1,000 and 1,300 people in attendance from all areas of New York state: mental health consumers, providers, family members (such as me) and advocates. I heard it was the largest rally held in many years.

We heard from people in all walks of life, including assemblymen and women, promising to advocate for safe, affordable, supportive housing services to tens of thousands of New Yorkers in our communities. Yet I saw but one picture, with no story whatsoever, concerning the rally. It seems our news is about local shootings, citywide crime stories, our poor military troops getting killed daily in Iraq, stories of elected officials that seem to have no morals, corruption etc.

Could you not find a little space to inform your many readers of the importance of the rally, perhaps a little paragraph of the pain these people are suffering? Remember, they are people and should be treated as such.

There are programs out there for drug addicts (most of them choosing to destroy their brains). The mentally ill have no choice. There must be other things going on in this world that merits print for the public. Let's start seeing some.

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