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Cambridge Mental Hospital Authorities Say Nothing Unusual at CMH

Cambridge, MN
September 24, 2003—

Cambridge Police and the Isanti County Sheriff's Department issued a joint statement yesterday that reports of unusual activities in abandoned areas of the Cambridge Mental Hospital warrant no further concern.

Chief Morton ordered an investigation after local residents reported seeing lights in supposedly unused areas and an increase in traffic entering the grounds of the hospital, which has not been fully operational for several years. The sightings were explained as being 'related to demolition planning crews going about their business', according to Tuesday's statement. Buildings on the property are due to be razed in preparation for new construction projects scheduled over the next few years.

Some Residents Unconvinced

Some local residents feel the explanation wasn't convincing. They wonder why crews would have been working round-the-clock and appear to be residing on the premises under extremely tight security. Officials say that the manpower was necessary to finish the planning in a timely manner and the increased security required when dealing with explosives. However, authorities believe

that an identified visitor has caused locals undue concern.

There have been reports that a female out-of-towner has been stirring up residents with rumors about illicit activities taking place on the privately-owned hospital property. One resident, speaking on the condition of anonymity, would only state, "We don't need that type of publicity here in Cambridge." Another, under the same condition, said, "She told a convincing tale," but refused to give details on the record.

When asked about the unidentified female and her statements to residents, Sheriff Bartholomew replied, "I could go to Seattle and tell everyone I'm the reincarnation of Napoleon Bonaparte, but that don't necessarily make it true."

County News reporters were granted limited access to the premises today, but were unable to find evidence of unusual activity, other than what appeared to be remnants of teen parties.

Local urban legend says Cambridge Mental Hospital is haunted, and police often find minors on the grounds exploring, despite the presence of an on-site caretaker. Authorities cautioned that entering the property could be hazardous, as the buildings have not been adequately maintained and could be structurally unsound. In addition,

trespassing could result in arrest.

The sheriff then declared, "No good can come from being on that property," and reminded residents of a drug bust in the main hospital building three years ago, when officials arrested three youths who had been dealing marijuana at local schools. Over one pound of the drug was seized during the arrests.

Anonymous Source Says There's More to Story

An anonymous caller to the County News offices the evening before the statement by authorities indicated that officials would discontinue the investigation. The caller stated that there was more to the story than officials were saying, but would not elaborate. The County News suspects the caller may have been the aforementioned visitor to the area.

Officials stress there has been nothing unexplained going on at the hospital, but directed anyone seeing anything out of the ordinary to call police.

"Most likely it's going to be one of those kids smoking something bad for them," said Sheriff Bartholomew.

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