COMING EVENTS

November 7 (Saturday)--ALTERNATIVES TO PSYCHIATRY DAY (See page 3)
ALMP office (1427 Walnut St. 4th Floor), 12-4:30 p.m.

November 19 (Thursday)-OPEN HOUSE FOR FORMER AND CURRENT "MENTAL PATIENTS"
ALMP office, 6-9 p.m. Learn more about the Alliance and how you can participate. Refreshments & coffee.

December 3 (Thursday)--PUBLIC MEETING ALMP office, 7 p.m. All welcome.
This is your chance to check out our latest activities, ask questions, & find out how you can help.

FOR MORE DETAILS ON THESE OR OTHER ACTIVITIES CALL (215) 563-3828

AN EXPLANATION

If you are a subscriber to the ALMP Newsletter, you have undoubtedly been wondering what's been going on. No, your mail hasn't been stolen by the CIA. Like much of the country, we have been facing a severe economic crisis. We simply had no money to print a spring issue, and although we did print a summer issue, we couldn't afford to mail it out en masse. (For more details on our financial situation and our future prospects, see the enclosed letter.)

Though the Newsletter is intended to be a quarterly, this is often not the case; sometimes we skip an issue, other times we print double issues. It all depends on time, money and the amount of newsworthy material on hand.

What does this mean in terms of your subscription? The way we work it is to consider every subscription a four-issue subscription, rather than a yearly one. Thus, if we only print three issues in a given year, a subscription beginning at the start of that year would also include the first issue of the following year. A double issue--12 pages or more--counts as two issues.

Sorry again for the confusion. But, our first priority must be to survive as an organization. When it comes to a choice between paying our office rent and printing a newsletter, the decision is obvious. Rest assured, however, that our financial problems will not be taken out on Newsletter readers, and that all subscribers will receive a full four issues.

People who contributed to the writing, production, and distribution of this issue are Martha West, Lenny Lapon, John Jordan, Bob Harris, Flip Ferrara, Kathy Chang, Pat Bradley, and Diane Baran.

MORE HAVERFORD DEATHS

Meanwhile, three more Haverford inmates have died of unnatural causes in the past six months. On February 28, William Broderick was found dead behind Building 12 with his sock tied around his neck. His death was ruled a strangulation. Broderick's father has been quoted as saying he thinks "somebody done him in. I think they're trying to sweep this thing under the rug." William was 29 and had been at Haverford since he was 16.

A month later, Barbara Duska was found hanging in her room. The papers referred to her death as a "suicide"--which, of course, is the same way British papers refer to the Irish hunger strikers in H-Block. Many people experience state institutions as a process of slow death, and would prefer to just get it over with all at once. So another term for this would be "being suicided."

Most recently, another inmate, 17 year old Stephen Timlin was pronounced dead less than two hours after being thrown into seclusion. He had been involved in a physical struggle with attendants. The cause of death has not been released yet "pending toxicology reports." But the available information speaks for itself. This case is strikingly similar to that of the death of Robert Keel at Haverford in 1978. Keel was also involved in a "scuffle" with aides before dying from a toxic interaction of two antidepressant drugs that had been prescribed by separate doctors.

Not suprisingly, Haverford officials refuse to give out any information whatsoever about the three deaths--even to members of Haverford State's own board of trustees. This refusal is being rationalized as being in the interest of "confidentiality of inmates' records." Undoubtedly, these concerned officials want to guard against the stigma of institutionalization affecting inmates in their next existence.

The deaths of William Broderick and Stephen Timlin are still being investigated by state police, who will probably give up or be silenced soon enough. The Alliance will be conducting its own investigation of these and other incidents of inmate abuse in the months to come, and we ask anyone with information about such matters to contact us. Confidentiality will be maintained.

(Some info from the Main Line Times and the Main Line Chronicle)