I changed psychiatrists. My new psychiatrist gave me anatensol and, after extracting from me that I am homosexual, decided that I needed to be treated for that as well as my bogus mental condition. Expensive shots of LSD ensued (which aggravated my epiliepsy).

Eventually I woke up to the fact that I was being used--fleeced of my money--and that my "mental illness" was nothing more than a barbiturate "high" that I couldn't understand or cope with. I've known "barb freaks" since and watched their health deteriorate in exactly the same way mine did--except that they don't see the psycho-police.

E.G., Mt. Colan, Australia

...your organization is vital and is a strength to those of us who need your help more than that horrid invention called Thorazine. I know. It almost killed me. Keep up the good work.

S.M., Long Beach, N.Y.

I thank you for your newsletter. It is, as usual, excellent. I have a new address now. I am now working at the Mental Health Legal Advocacy Project in Fall River, Mass. I'm doing the same kind of work as at Northampton State, providing free legal services to consumers of mental health stuff. We work mostly out of Corrigan Mental Health Center in Fall River. Corrigan is a direct byproduct of "de-institutionalization" in Massachusetts. It was one of the first created under the federal mandate by Kennedy. It has an inpatient unit of 25 or so and group homes where people sit and vegetate. The entire unit of Fall River at Taynton State Hospital moved to Fall River. Same staff. So there are still beatings, over-drugging, etc. ad nauseum; institutional problems in the "community." Corrigan is a mini-hospital in Fall River and instead of locked doors they use more drugs, locking people's minds instrad. Your struggle at Haverford seems like an intense one. If it is of any benefit, know that you have support in Fall River..

G.G., Fall River, Mass.

I can attest to the injustice of the legal system which forces innocent people to undergo institutionalization or involuntary psychiatric treatment, as I had a similar experience with it about three and a half years ago. I was arrested on trumped-up, exaggerated charges and was forced to undergo involuntary treatment in order to avoid being locked up.

I was arrested by the Lower Merion police, who told me that they would "go easy" on me if I would "cooperate." However, during the interrogation when I insisted that I was innocent of the specific charges brought against me they told me that I was not "cooperating" because I would not tell them what I wanted to hear. They had already made up their minds that I was guilty and they employed psychological coercion in order to force me into signing a false confession. They wanted to have me institutionalized, and they figured that if they could get a false confession out of me they could railroad my case through the legal system without a formal trial.

I had a previous history of seeking voluntary psychiatric treatment for emotional problems; this was supposed to be further "proof" that I was mentally unbalanced and needed to be removed from society, even though my emotional problems, while very real, probably still were not any worse than similar problems of a lot of other people who never bothered to seek treatment for them. Luckily, my parents hired an expert criminal lawyer to handle my case who helped me beat the rap. It was agreed that as an alternative to being jailed or institutionalized I would undergo intensive involuntary psychiatric treatment. Unfortunately, however, it cost several thousand dollars to secure the services of our criminal lawyer, and it cost thousands and thousands of additional dollars for the intensive psychiatric treatment; plus I was still fined and put on two years probation, so I still ended up being punished severely for an offense which I never really committed.

I was put on Montgomery County's A.R.D. program, which basically means that I did not have to face a formal trial with a possible conviction if I accepted the sentence which the court meted out to me--in my case I was fined, put on probation, and forced to undergo intensive involuntary psychiatric treatment. The A.R.D. program works similarly to the justice system which existed in colonial America when people accused of witchcraft could avoid being tortured to death if they would just admit to their "crime" and submit to a more "humane" punishment.

I feel abused by a justice system which had me arrested for alleged crimes which I never committed and which compelled me to undergo involuntary psychiatric treatment in order to avoid being locked up. If I came from a poorer family which was unable to pay for the expenses of an expensive lawyer and an expensive psychiatrist, I could very well have been imprisoned or institutionalized. Someone from a lower socio-economic background encountering similar difficulty with the law would have gotten off a lot worse.

Flip Ferrara, Villanova, Pa.