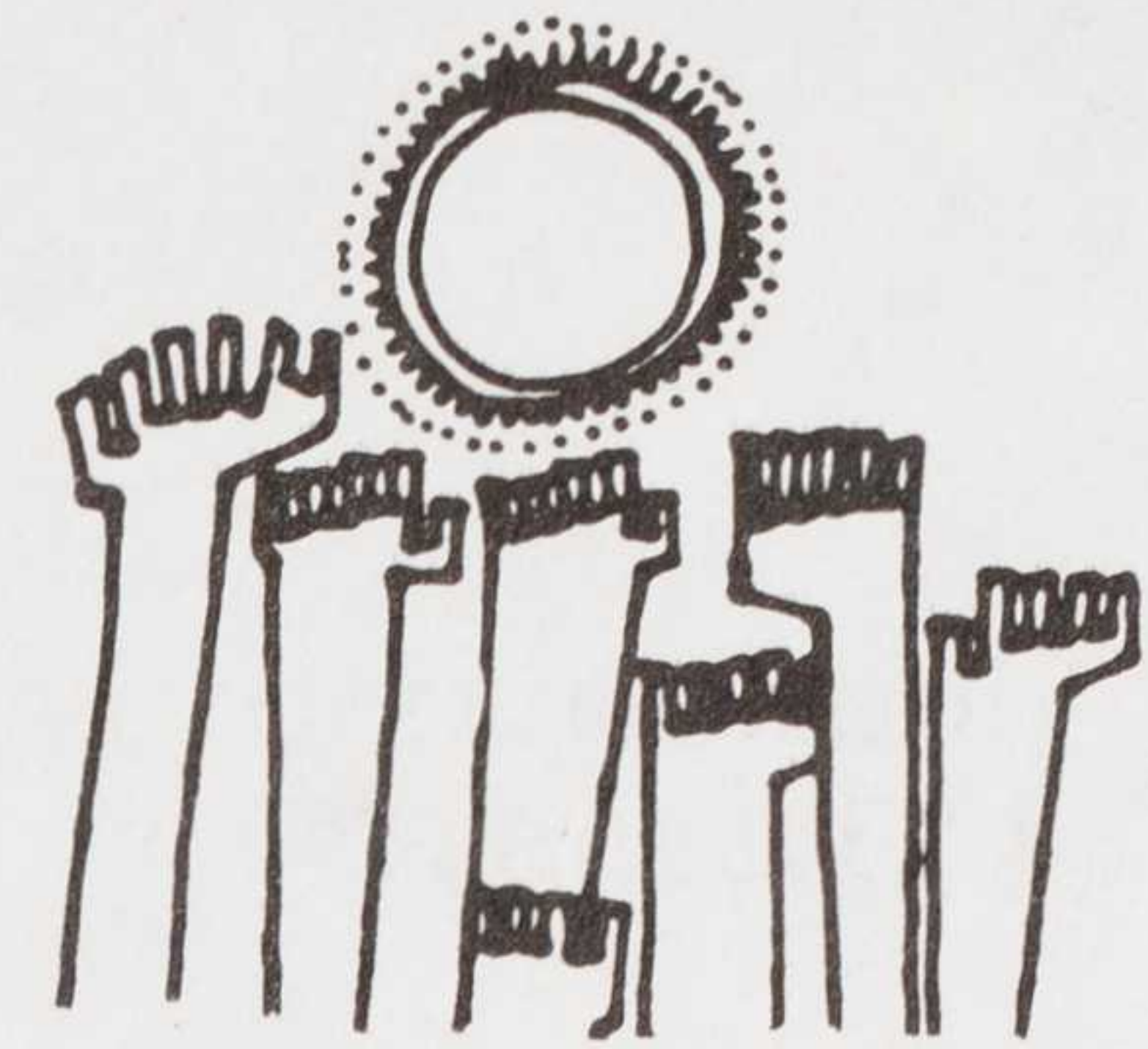




THE ALLIANCE FOR THE LIBERATION OF MENTAL PATIENTS
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October 22, 1979

Dear Friend of the Alliance,

It has been nearly ten years now since "mental patients" and other victims of the psychiatric profession first began to unite in opposition to psychiatric exploitation and assault. In its short history, the "mental patients'" liberation movement has been extremely successful in raising public awareness of and concern about the plight of those labeled by psychiatry as "mentally ill."

However, the fact remains that in 1979, with the sanctity of "human rights" being constantly mouthed by those in power, over two million Americans per year are still being incarcerated in psychiatric facilities--most of them against their wills. And that almost all of them are being administered powerful and dangerous mind-affecting drugs, whether they want to take them or not--drugs which can cause permanent brain damage and other destructive physical effects in up to 50% of those who use them.

If you were already aware of these facts, your knowledge of the circumstances faced by current and former psychiatric inmates ("mental patients") far surpasses that of the average citizen. If the above is indeed new information to you, be warned that beyond the seemingly benevolent facade of psychiatry may be discovered countless more ways in which this pseudo-medical industry operates to damage people and rip them off, both monetarily and emotionally. In any case, we, the members of the Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients, hope you will agree that the liberation struggle of "mental patients" is a vital one and worthy of your support.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Alliance and its activities, let us briefly introduce ourselves. We are an educational/political/advocacy organization composed of and directed by former psychiatric inmates. Our basic goals are:

- 1) To abolish all involuntary psychiatric incarceration ("hospitalization") and "treatment" (i.e., drugging, electroshock, solitary confinement, behavior modification, etc.);
- 2) To replace the current "mental health" system and so-called "experts" in human emotions with voluntary grassroots systems of human support that do not base their existence on doctors, drugs, and profits;
- 3) To do away with the concept of "mental illness" as a way of explaining (and invalidating) people's feelings of pain, frustration, rage, etc.; and
- 4) To advance public understanding of the social, political,

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