"I am an idealist. I don't know where I'm going but I'm on my way."

Carl Sandburg

This ALERT functions as a vehicle of communication between the Alliance and its constituency. It is our goal to provide timely and useful material in a readable, easy access format. Feel free to send in your announcements, share your ideas or ask for help.

GET THE PICTURE? The Foundation for Biomedical Research is creating a "Family Album" for President and Mrs. Bush which will be presented in the spring. Its purpose is to show that responsible animal research plays a critical role in the development of new medical treatments for the health problems that afflict so many Americans. Encourage families to submit personal letters that explain how animal research has benefited them or why animal research is important to their future. Children are asked to draw a picture of their family. Loved pets should definitely be included. Submissions to the Album will be grouped by organization, and each section will be preceded by a summary of the organization and its goals. Those without groups are welcome to submit through the Alliance. Letters, photos and drawings must be received by February 1, 1990. Send all materials to: Foundation for Biomedical Research; Attn: Family Album 818 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. - Suite 303 Washington, D.C. 20006

GIVE THE MEDIA A MESSAGE: In case you missed it, Newsweek Winter/Spring 1990 Special Issue has helped to muddy the waters with an article with the inflammatory title of "Made to Order Babies." The moral and ethical issues revolving around genetic testing are hot enough, and the Human Genome Project has potential for heating folks up even more. This article does little more than fan the flames. Get a copy and decide for yourself. If your sense of outrage equals ours, write to the Editor. Perhaps they wanted to provoke controversy and stimulate readership. In the process, we believe they have done a disservice to the field of genetics and all the people, both consumers and professionals, who devote their time and talent to improving the quality of life for families affected by genetic disorders.

ON THE OTHER HAND: Hippocrates, the Magazine of Health and Medicine (November/December issue) has a feature article entitled "Uninsurance" -- the latest thing in health coverage; you get sick, they don't pay. The article makes fascinating, informative reading. You will definitely want to add it to your pile of "Save for future reference."

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NATIONAL HEALTH CARE CAMPAIGN? You should. A group called Americans for Health, Inc. publishes Health Care News monthly and reports on developments in the struggle to win a national health care plan. The July/August edition is useful for a quick overview of activities of state campaigns. For example, the Alabama Health Care Campaign is producing wallet-sized information cards concerning patients' rights to emergency care to be distributed through health departments and health centers throughout the state. In Arizona, the Campaign successfully lobbied for creation of a joint committee of legislators and non-legislators who will make recommendations toward increasing access to care and controlling health care costs. The September issue examines the implementation of the Massachusetts Health Security Law. If you are concerned about the health care crisis, and who isn't, you might want to subscribe to this newsletter. It costs $10 for individuals; $25 for groups. Send your check to "National Health Care Campaign: P.O. Box 27249, Washington, D.C. 20038.

WATCH YOUR MAIL: We will mail out registration forms for the National Conference on Peer Support Training in December. Scheduled for March 30 - April 1, 1990 at the Georgetown Conference Center in Washington, D.C., this important program will feature experts in the field of training, peer support, and