This is Volume 2, Number 2, of the Schizophrenia Bulletin, a quarterly periodical prepared by the Center for Studies of Schizophrenia, National Institute of Mental Health, Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration. The Bulletin's purpose is to facilitate the dissemination and exchange of information about schizophrenia and to provide abstracts of the recent literature on the subject. Material contained in the Bulletin, including viewpoints expressed by NIMH staff members, does not necessarily reflect the opinions, official policy, or position of the National Institute of Mental Health.

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about the cover

The Schizophrenia Bulletin features art done by current and former mental hospital patients. The cover art for this issue is a reproduction of a picture done by John Cunningham, a resident of the J. N. Adam Developmental Center, Perrysville, N.Y. Mr. Cunningham's artwork was sent to us by Salvatore D. Lauricella, Ph.D., Acting Director of Mental Hospital Rehabilitation Services, Gowanda Psychiatric Center, on whose grounds in Helmuth, N.Y., a treatment unit of J. N. Adam is located. Dr. Lauricella describes the 45-year-old artist below.

During his 41 years of institutionalization, John has developed into an accomplished artist. John loves to draw and is particularly adept at producing elaborate calendars, which usually commemorate significant events in his life or the lives of others who are important to him. Those of us who have worked with John believe that he has found in art a way of communicating to others and to his environment. John's artwork expresses a human spirit that transcends his many years of institutionalization. When John and I discussed the possibility of submitting an artwork of his choice to the Bulletin, he asked me if I would include the following self-description: "As a child I liked baseball. Hobbies now mostly art and drawing. Tell them that I am mostly a good person."

John is indeed "a good person" who we believe is capable of living in the community. To help in his eventual community placement, he is currently involved in a variety of rehabilitation activities among which are paid work in our sheltered workshop, learning cooking and homemaking in the living skills area, and being taught to read by our educational program. John's first love, however, is art, which he engages in twice weekly with our art therapist, Mrs. Agnes Cole.