This is Volume 5, Number 4, 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. All articles appearing in the Bulletin, except where otherwise noted, are in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without requesting authors' permission.

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About the Cover

The Schizophrenia Bulletin features art done by current or former mental hospital patients. The cover art for this issue is the work of Alicia H. (not her real name); it appears here with her permission. For more information about Alicia H., see “Visual Hallucinations During Hallucinogenic Experience and Schizophrenia,” by Anna Marsh, which begins on p. 627 of this issue. Alicia H. provided the following description of her drawing:

The background patterns—the circles and triangles—represent some of the “acid” hallucinations I had before my psychosis. A head is shown in double image because for 4 years before I broke down, my entire world was out of focus. One flower out of the bunch is reaching to point a direction to me, as I saw it point just before I was hospitalized. Only now am I able to accept that it was I who was divided against myself, I who was in such emotional turmoil, reaching and striving for direction in my life, that in the end I stretched myself too far and, like a tightened string, I broke.