

IN A NUTSHELL

Sept. 23, 1971

3191 W. 10th
Ph: 738-1422 (bus.)
738-5177 (other)

MPA NEWSLETTER #7

Up to now, In A Nutshell has been used mainly to communicate information about MPA and to ask the members for help with particular projects.

The newsletter should also be used as a forum for exchanging ideas about topics relevant to MPA activities and to the concerns of patients in general.

Everyone is invited to write articles.

NOBODY EVER SAID THIS WAS GOING TO BE EASY

Some thoughts on power and MPA

Some of the main issues that any group must come to terms with are: how decisions are to be made; who is to make them; who has the authority to carry them out. These issues come up time and time again around MPA.

Two extreme solutions to these problems are dictatorship and anarchism.

1) Dictatorship means that one person or a small group of people have absolute power to make decisions and carry them out. Dictators are not responsible to the people who are affected by the decisions. If the people are not happy with the decisions, force is used to make them obedient, if not happy.

The word dictatorship brings to mind thoughts of people like Hitler. We all feel absolutely opposed to organizing social relationships along dictatorial lines, and most of us believe that in our society we do not have dictators. There are institutions in our society, however, where all decisions are made by non-elected people who never consult those affected by the decisions. Prisons and the military are two such institutions. Mental hospitals often fall into this category.

Erving Goffman, a sociologist who made a survey of mental hospitals, concluded that they have the following features:

- a) All aspects of life are conducted in the same place, and under a single authority.
- b) There is little or no room for private activity. All inmates are treated alike and are required to do the same things together.
- c) There is a strict schedule of daily activities which do not arise from the inmates' interests or wishes, but are imposed from above.
- d) The contents of the various enforced activities are brought together as parts of a single overall plan designed to fulfill the official aims of the institution.

It is my impression that most MPA members do not like having their activities dictated as they are in mental hospitals. People come to MPA in an attempt to build an alternative to the authoritarian atmosphere in these institutions.

If people want dictatorial rules about when they must get up and go to bed, about signing in and out, about when they can have visitors, the hospital is the place they can find rules galore.

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1988-2-1

(10/10) (2) Anarchism is the opposite of dictatorship. Most people equate anarchism with chaos, confusion and disorder. Actually, anarchism doesn't mean these things. It come from the Greek and means without leadership. It is possible that not having leadership will lead to chaos, but not necessarily.

Some MPA members, in their distaste for rules and authority, believe that MPA should follow a policy of anarchism--that we should have no rules and that people should be absolutely free to do anything they want here.

Most MPA members, myself included, feel that this policy is unrealistic. Absolute freedom often means the freedom to interfere with the liberty of others, and perhaps the freedom to jeopardize MPA's existence.

3) Democracy is the alternative to dictatorship and anarchism. I am quite sure that the large majority of members want MPA to follow democratic principles. Democracy is a concept that almost everyone agrees with. I do. I associate it with concepts like Mother and apple pie. (Maybe those are bad comparisons because, actually, I associate Mother with neurosis and apple pie with hives.) And democracy, too, is a word we often endorse unthinkingly, without really knowing what we mean by it.

Democracy also come from the Greek, and means strength of the people. In ancient Greek society, where democracy originated--although neither women nor slaves were permitted to have a say--"free men" voted by raising their fists in the air. Their clenched fists represented strength or power, and the majority ruled because they were stronger than the minority.

Today we have lost the sense that democracy means rule by strength, and have come to think of it as meaning simply majority rule. There are many ways, however, in which the majority can rule and it is important to examine the ways majority opinion is estimated and how it is put into action, if in fact it is.

I will consider two main forms of the democratic process: representative democracy and participatory democracy.

a) Representative democracy is the type we have in Canada, and is really the only type we have experienced. According to this system, we elect people to represent us in government. They do the day to day work of running the country; they do not consult us about decisions. This system differs from dictatorship because, if we don't like the decisions our representatives have made during their term in office, we can vote them out at the next election.

Most people think this process of putting an X on a ballot every few years is democracy and freedom. For a number of reasons, I don't believe it is. First of all, most people don't vote. There is hardly ever more than 50% of the eligible electorate who exercise their voting rights at any election. "Well," you might say, "they could vote but they choose not to, and that is not the fault of the system."

I think it is the fault of the system. The fact that most people don't vote implies that they feel their vote doesn't make any difference. And the reason their vote doesn't make any difference is that the people (us) have no say over who runs in elections. Candidates almost always represent very similar points of view. Aside from personality differences, anyone we elect will do about the same things

any other candidate would do.

The realities of the situation dictate that candidates must be supported by a political party. To have any chance of winning an election, the candidate must spend huge sums of money on his election campaign. Only the very rich or political parties (and they usually involve the same people) can afford to support a candidate in an election. All political parties tend to represent about the same points of view, and it doesn't really make much difference who is elected, unless we want our leaders to be handsome.

Does anyone seriously think that your life or mine would change in day to day details if Stanfield were elected rather than Trudeau?

We have been conditioned into thinking of politics as being something that has nothing to do with our daily lives. It's just a kind of entertainment show that rolls around every few years. But politics ought to be about procedures for involving everyone in making decisions that do affect the details of our lives, in schools, factories, offices, neighbourhoods, mental hospitals etc.

We think of this as a pipe-dream, however. Representative democracy has removed us all so far from the levers of power that we are resigned to thinking the only role we can play in politics is putting an X on a ballot and getting drunk while we watch the election returns on TV.

We're fed up with and intimidated by politics because we know we have no real, active role to play in the political process. And no one is going to give us that role until we decide we are going to have it.

We feel so powerless that we may believe the rationalization that the only way to run a huge nation is to elect people to represent us. This rationalization is false, however. If a nation the size of the United States can organize programs to send men to the moon and to move half a million soldiers to Vietnam, surely we can re-organize Canada's political system so that the people have a real say in how the country is to be run.

The trouble is that we have been conditioned politically to want to be children, to have parent-figures make our decisions for us. We want to be represented by others so we don't have to be responsible for making our own decisions.

We rationalize our irresponsibility as the need for efficiency. How else can things be run? The answer is up to us. Things are not being run efficiently now. If efficiency means creating conditions of human happiness, the system of representative democracy is highly inefficient. We all know this from personal experience.

And not only nations, but most small groups the size of MPA use representative democracy. The membership elects an executive who mess things up while everyone else bides their time til the next election.

(b) Participatory democracy means that everyone who wants to can participate in decision making. I believe MPA has been using and should use this system. The power should be exercised by the membership not the executive. MPA's executive has less power than in any other group I know of. Participatory democracy is slower and sloppier than representative democracy, but is in every other way better. The membership of MPA should be responsible for everything that goes on here. Authority must be the group's not the executive's. If you have complaints or suggestions, you must attend meetings and raise them.

Research Committee

The research committee is collecting a file of articles on mental health. If you come across an article in a magazine or newspaper, please clip it out and get it to Lee Cowan or Lanny.

Crisis Lines

We have had a two-line crisis and gossip phone installed. The new number is 738-5177. All calls other than business calls should be made to this new number. Our old number, 738-1422, should be used for business calls only.

MPA Salaries

There is a good chance that two or more salaried MPA positions will be coming available within the next month. The salaries will be in the range of \$250 per month. If you might be interested in getting paid for a full-time MPA job, give your name to Barry or Lanny. Applications will be considered at a general meeting; the membership will decide who is to fill these positions.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 8-PM

MENTAL ILLNESS, THE CAUSE AND THE CURE.

Sir Pigby Snort, M.D. (Mentally Deficient), S.O.S., P.M.O.

I suppose that Mental Illness has been with us for some fifty years or more, depending on your age. I will not dwell on the cause except to say that a lack of sanity in the brain will often bring on Mental Illness. The cure is the important aspect of this wonderful book. Perhaps a short biography would enhance the reader and open a communication link beneficial to the reader. I was born in a log cabin in Missouri of poor but honest parents. Not completely honest, because they used to steal my diapers, little booties, teething rings, etc. They were very kind people and would often let me sleep in the house when it snowed. My parents insisted that a University education was the key to a successful life and because they couldn't afford the tremendous amount of money involved, they kidnapped a University professor and locked him in our basement. I spent the first fifteen years of my life conversing with this brilliant man and gained a fantastic amount of medical intelligence from him before he was finally released by a band of roving gypsies who broke into the cellar to steal pickled plums.

After a year of rest in which I learned how to operate a water tap they booted my ass out of the house to make room for a large hairy baboon who was a good cook. At the age of seventeen I stole a car and after a hectic two-day drive being chased by the police I arrived in Boston where I got a job as a doctor. I spent two years treating young pregnant women who were not pregnant when they came in. After six years of research working with Dr. Iainstein trying to find ways to cheat old age pensioners I set up a large hospital complex with a fifty-member concert orchestra in each room to cheer up the patients. By offering \$50.00 per week I obtained

Cover

Talk to other members; try to convince them of your point of view. Don't be afraid of raising unpopular ideas. I don't want to make decisions on my own. I want as many people as possible involved. The general membership has the final say on how things are to be run. General meetings should be held more regularly.

The main way that MPA differs from a hospital, I feel, is that we do run this place democratically. If you don't think we are democratic, say so at meetings; get the feeling we all run MPA, make the feeling free.

The issue of leadership comes up again and again. In a democracy, leaders exercise authority and power. In a democracy, leaders do not have formal powers. They coordinate, organize, make suggestions. If members don't want to follow these suggestions, they are free not to. I don't want formal power over other people's lives. I believe the only meaningful leadership is the type that people follow willingly. If MPA's leaders give orders the way hospital staff do, we are no different from a hospital. Setting up a few ex-patients to play doctor and nurse is no way to create a real alternative to the hospital structure.

I don't feel that my refusal to exercise formal power implies that I am shirking responsibility. On the contrary, I think the most responsible leadership entails making sure that the entire group participate in decision making and that no one fills the power vacuum by forcing his ideas on others.

I think the level of democratic participation is very high, but it could be higher. Too many people still want to delegate authority to others.

I see my main role in MPA as ensuring that people don't make one-sided decisions without bringing it before the group. Also, I want people to feel responsible and powerful regarding decisions.

There are not many groups that are run by the active participation of the members. If MPA is going to serve any useful function, it will only be through the democratic participation of everyone.

The issues raised in this article and related issues should be discussed openly and frequently. I hope the article will encourage this discussion.

Don't let your executive take the power that is yours.

I hope it goes without saying that these views are my own and are not MPA policy.

Lanny Beckman

...participatory democracy means that everyone who wants to can ... I believe MPA has been using and ... The power should be exercised by the membership ... MPA's executive has less power than in any other ... I know of. Participatory democracy is slower and simpler than ... but in every other way better. The members ... for everything that goes on here. ... If you have ... and take them.

the best doctors in the country to staff the hospital and it developed into perhaps the most well-known medical centre in the world, Flop House Peter's.

So much for my life story. The cure for mental illness is quite simple. I obtained the knowledge some five years ago. However, why the Hell should I tell you People. I don't know you that well.

Six Figgy Sport
M.D., S.C.S., P.T.O.

to watch them leaning
over themselves
is to think of
the mad bird
struck by stone
pulling its guts
out a hole in its feathers
and (swallowing them)
the beak keeps shrieking
its own endless probe

FROM OUR GRAFFITI BOARD
Nebulating can be fun. - L.L.
What about post-nebulating lot down? - G.W.

Would you prefer to study scatology or eschatology?
C. Batten.

After a year of post-nebulating I found that the most interesting part of the process was the post-nebulating. I had been told that the post-nebulating was the most interesting part of the process. I had been told that the post-nebulating was the most interesting part of the process. I had been told that the post-nebulating was the most interesting part of the process.

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Nov 8th, 1971

MPA NEWSLETTER
#8

EDITORIAL:

At the general meeting of Oct 22nd, it was decided to expand the size of the Newsletter. It is hoped that people of the M.P.A. will contribute their time and talents, in working towards a successful publication. We intend to publish once a month on a regular basis. Needed are, Reporters, writers, illustrators, (line drawings, at present) and a steady flow of letters to the editors, classified ads, poetry, etc. Two of the top priorities are; letters expressing views good or bad, on the M.P.A. and articles on the mental health field.

COMING EVENTS:

Ladies Coffee Party Sat, Nov.13th 2-4 p.m.

Our first real social event will take place on Sat, Nov.13th at St. James' Church (10th & Trutch). It will be a Ladies Coffee Party between 2-4 p.m. Invitations are being sent out but if we miss you, please come anyway. Children are welcome and we are planning door prizes and music. Let's get to know each other. If this is a success, we will plan others.

- Thurs. Nov.11 at 8 p.m. Research Committee Meeting
- Fri. -Nov.12 at 8 p.m. General Meeting
- Wed. Nov.17 Central Committee Meeting
- Mon. Nov.22 Girls Volunteers Meeting

M.P.A. ELECTION

At the General Meeting of October 1st, an election was held to fill three salaried positions with M.P.A. The Company of Young Canadians, who have been supplying salaries to Barry Coull and Lanny Beckman, announced that they would put two additional people on salary. Janet Allen and Gerry Walker were elected to

fill these positions. Lloyd Howarth was elected to receive a salary paid out of M.P.A. funds to manage the farm.

We now have five people on salary--our humble contribution to solving the unemployment crisis.

Your Foreign Reporter
Sir Figby Snort

After picking up my counterfeit money and passport from the M.P.A. house, I had a great feeling of exhilaration as I set off to roam the world in search of newsworthy items of a foreign nature to send back to the In A Nutshell newsletter.

As my first assignment was London England, and because of the bulkiness of such a large amount of money, Janet Allen had cleverly sewn large denomination bills together into a complete wardrobe for me. My overcoat, suit, shirt, tie shorts, and socks were all made of hand stitched money. Even the soles of my shoes were made of laminated one hundred dollar bills. The idea behind this was that if I needed to purchase anything I could just tear off a bill from any part of my clothing. They figured that it would take me roughly two months to reach London as I was told to hitch hike across Canada. By starting with my overcoat and so on by the time I arrived I would be down to my shorts and shoes which would be perfect attire for the English weather conditions.

After spending the overcoat, the suit jacket, and the pants and shirt, I arrived at Buckingham Palace wearing my shorts, socks, shoes, and tie and was given room 316 in the motel complex run by Queen Elizabeth and Phil. They did not invite me into the Palace itself, but after finding out I was from the M.P.A. they showed me a picture of a crazy man that had tried to climb on the back of Queen Elizabeth's horse while she was on parade for the changing of the guard. I was quite relieved to find that he was not one of ours. Philip was kind enough to give me an original Rembrandt painting as a welcoming gift. I shall always treasure it because it is worth about two million dollars.

After a shave and a shower I went in search of the London M.P.A. It was situated near Kings' Cross Station and occupied a ten story building. The members appeared to be quite happy, but seemed to be having a hard time speaking without an English accent. I expressed my thanks by throwing a tantrum and smashing a few windows which made me acceptable to them all, and I left them with promise to return sometime and smash some more windows. And so on to Scotland next month.

Sir Figby Snort

A Memory From Aboard the S. S. Waitomo 1946

On one September morning in 1946, the crew came up on deck from the foc'sle, after two and half weeks at sea across the Pacific to look at a mountainous island of beautiful deep green. Thirty minutes later we were entering the harbour of Papeete, Tahiti. As we looked over the side of the ship through the water of the prettiest blue colour you could choose to fancy, fishes swimming and thirty feet to sand of purest white. As the freighter inched closer to the dock, the people of Papeete could be seen gathered on the pier to greet us.

The men in their bare Polynesian skin standing strongly. The women were of such extraordinary beauty that I would never have imagined I would see person to person.

The crew tied up the ship and rigged the cargo gear with great haste, needless to say in a great hurry to get ashore. By one o'clock in the afternoon, draws (money) had been given out and the gangplank was receiving full use with the love starved (sex) and thirsty seamen rushing toward whatever excitement there was to offer.

By two thirty Quinn's Bar and Coral Blue were swinging and jumping with the Waitomo crew and the native girls getting it on. I might mention here that there was no such thing as prostitution in Tahiti, the natives believed in free love and were very generous.

Tahiti had at that time one movie house which everyone in the town travelled to I swear by bicycle. Tahiti was the only island that I can think of that had never been infiltrated during the second world war by the big rich Americans and the spirit therefore was of a happy natural, generous nature.

Some of the crew, returning to the ship in the morning after sleeping with women, were greeted by the native menfolk, who climb up a palm tree to get them an offering of breakfast.

On the second afternoon a group of us went to an inland swimming pool for a swim which was really tremendously refreshing and beautiful.

That night those that had the strength and the money left made a repeat of the night before.

Next morning we pulled in the lines and left Tahiti tremendously tired, but fruitfully happy. We had found a seamen's paradise.

Tom Pollock

THE CO-OP REPORT

This experiment in communal living has been a major step on the road to alternate living for ex mental patients. This beginning has been successful insofar as out of a total of nine people who have recently come together, there has been a solid core of four people remaining. Good enough average for communal existence. New faces and total personalities have inherent difficulties. Compatability is difficult to achieve among this number of people.

With luck and a bit of serious thought the house should remain the first successful experiment in co-operative living for ex-mental patients.

FARM REPORT

Hurrah! The farm is ready and rearing to go. People are now starting to come out. We've got the farm house looking pretty good. All we need now are a few cooking utensils, lamps, blanket s mattress and fridge.

The place feels pretty good now after cleaning the floors from the cattle stampede thru the house. Henry says he's still missing a calf and we're checking the closets but we think he's caught in the attic. They say the stampede started when Sabre, one of the houses' cats was trying to bronc one of the steers.

That's all for now and we hope people feel good for the month they are here. Peace! Lloyd.

GET WELL

If you are hospitalised or know anyone who is hospitalised, please notify Gerry Walker at 738-1422 or 738-5177.

The following is a list of M.P.A. people in hospital. Cards, letters, visits and comfort would be most welcome.

Crease Clinic, Essondale, B.C. :- Maureen Badgley,
Colin Le Brooy, Jean Tkachuk

Vancouver Gen'Hosp. Psychiatric Ward:- Tom Dadson

PAT FISHER COLUMN

My name is Patricia Fisher, I am 29 years old. I have been a heroin addict for 10 years. I have been in prisons and hospitals many, many times. I have gone to many organizations and societies for help. I tried the methadone treatment four different times. I was never able to kick the heroin habit or stay away from it completely. I have now gone four months without touching heroin. I have done it completely on my own without the help of another drug. This is how.

To begin with I did not realize what I was getting myself into or just how serious it was. For years I was so deeply hooked and had become so hard that I never really thought of how to overcome the habit. Eventually, after so many prison bits and overdoses, I started to wonder where it would all end, and could I get myself out of this awful mess. After so many attempts of trying to kick with professional help and failing everytime, I thought maybe if I did want to kick I could do it on my own.

I had reached a point in my life where my body and soul was plain sick and tired of the whole mess. Luckily for me my mind was still together enough to be able to think for myself and so I made a big move. Still wired, I packed my bags and moved to a town where I knew that I couldn't get any stuff. I suffered cold turkey for about three weeks, BUT I was determined that this time I was going to make it. When I felt I was over the worst part I moved back to the city and got involved with an entirely different group of people - The M.P.A. It was very hard for a long time. But now I have even lost the desire. I can't say I will never touch heroin again as I don't know the future, but I know in my heart that I'm sure going to try and make it. I realize now that I was only hurting myself and the ones that loved me. I now live for to-day and not yesterday or tomorrow. For once in my life I am at complete peace. I no longer have to worry about the law, overdoses, or where my next fix will come from. Now I realize that I have so much to live for "myself".

Pat Fisher.

SHORT PEOM

The Blind Bastard Reflects in old age.

his eyes have been worn down by : faces in anthracite
the invariability of
their descendants
the mineral bonds
that link them to their self's
same image.

Elaine Bougie

'a poem'

trees, yes
we have trees
and multiple-jointed earthworms
and a butterfly

or two

houses, yes
we have houses
and single-shingled boozeries
and an outhouse

or two

boats, yes
we have boats
and twine-enraveled fishnets
and a lobster pot

or two

cattle, yes
we have cattle
and vapour-nostrilled horses
and a chicken

or two

tar paper, yes
we have tar paper
and catipillar-enhanced chunks of wood
and a steel nail

or two

beaches, yes
we have beaches
and circle-round perriwinkles
and a skate's egg case

or two

flow ers, yes
we ha ve flowers
and saucy-suttled weeds
and a dandilion green

or two

neighbours, yes
we have neighbours
and dirt-absorbed puppy dogs
and a naughty child

or two

THE PSYCHIATRIST'S HANDY GLOSSARY OF PATIENT TERMINOLOGY

Any professional group develops specialized concepts and terms to aid communication among its members. However, technical jargon often hinders understanding between different professions. Such is the case with psychiatrists and patients.

Owing to the wide publicity given to the psychiatric profession, patients have no difficulty understanding their therapists. Psychiatrists on the other hand are often bewildered by the complex terminology of the professional patients. In the interests of mental health, the following glossary of patient terms is humbly presented to help the psychiatrist achieve a greater understanding of his client.

- 1. Bad - a condition of depressed mood or affect. Not good.
- 2. Not bad - a common reply to the question "How are you?"
Usually a lie.
- 3. Hung-up - a fixation or overinvestment of libido in a particular object relationship. Usually followed by "on".
(No relationship to telephones)
Proper usage: I am hung-up on my dog.
Improper usage: If my patients insist on calling me at 3 in the morning, they can expect to get hung-up on at.
- 4. Up-tight, - generally designates an anxiety reaction.
Many psychiatrists express difficulty with the "up" in up-tight and hung-up, and erroneously say "up-hung" or "tight-up." This usage tends not to enhance rapport between the parties.
- 5. Flipped out - may refer to a manic state, a panic state or a manic panic state. Not related to male exhibitionism.
- 6. Freak out - acute anxiety state often accompanied by thought disorientation and loss of ego boundaries.
Improper usage: What a relief when the hour is up to get that freak out of the office.
- 7. FUNNI FARM - The M.P.A Farm Branch. The initials stand for the "Foundation for the Understanding of Nervous and Neurotic Illness."

✓ "when the bright of the white settles
upon the dullness of the grey."

white snow falling on the old dull grey barn,
as though it were something of its own,
cruel winds pounding versions of its sleet,
as though each grit were a pound of stone.
the tree hides the sparrows from the fullness of the breeze
while the barn door keeps us from the starkness of the cold,
and as you and i stare, i'm glad we're both here,
to see the heavy winds make the silent snow fold.
eye, the pounding winds and the curling snow,
they might well make a dandelion freeze,
but while the silly petal takes its needed sleep
the raccoon makes a few attempts at play
when,
the brightness of the white settles upon the
dullness of the grey.

eric gary bond

Clamped?

My mind travels to places,
I haven't seen;
And I realize one more time,
It's part of an endless dream.

Myriad faces flit past,
Bringing back the patterns;
Of men in the downtown,
Digging for what matters.

They're all in the plan,
Of relentless disdain;
And all you hear,
Is the monotonous refrain.

But, why do they,
Who work for you;
Abhor the opportunity,
To start anew.

Darryl Rempel

Don't Give Up

Twixt failure and success the point's so fine
men sometime know not when they touch the line,
just when the pearl was waiting one more plunge,
how many a struggler has thrown up the sponge!
Then take this honey from the bitterest cup:
"There is no failure save giving up!"

NIGHT

Katherine is standing against a lamppost, in the rain. She is watching the rain in the gutter. She has been standing and watching for so long that she has forgotten what she is waiting for. She looks up from the gutter, and the rain falls in her eyes. She finds it pleasant, to blink rain from her eyes like a cat, unworried.

The streetlamp flickers, and goes out. Katherine is standing in a pool of shadow, the rain turns purple. Katherine imagines her eyes to be turning yellow. She steps into the gutter and stands with the water running over her feet and her ankles. All along the street, the lamps are going out, the air is turning purple.

She wonders how it is that the rain and the gutterstream are so warm. She would like to lie down and bathe in it, it is so pleasant. She leans over to dip her hand in the water. Someone's hands touch her head. She stands up. It is a woman in a nightgown. She continues to touch Katherine, while she stands still, not knowing what to do. The woman's hands are like the rain, warm and light. After a while, she seems satisfied that what she is looking for is not to be found here and she turns and goes away. Katherine wonders if she should follow the woman and make sure that she comes to no harm with her eyes closed. The gutterstream draws her attention again, and she forgets.

Now she sits in the gutter. She rests her head against the lamppost and spreads her legs out before her into the street. She notices that not only is the water warm, but the pavement is soft. It seems to adjust itself to her body contours. She rocks slightly, to see if it will rock with her. Yes. The rain increases.

Katherine closes her eyes, and imagines the water flowing over her to be small grey serpents. She feels them curling over her thighs, climbing her belly, slipping away. The water is streaming down her head. She feels them sliding down over her eyes, down her breasts, slipping away. She opens her eyes.

There is a pool of water on her coat between her legs. There is a grey snake curled in it. She touches it. It twines around her hands. She raises it to her lips and kisses it. It uncoils itself and slips away in the stream. She closes her eyes again, and sees what she saw when they were open. The rain is washing her completely. She stops feeling the warmth, and becomes it. The warmth has become the world. There is a quickening in her body, as it prepares to take its first breath.

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- Wanted: shorthand typist - contact Molly 733-7891
 - Wanted: rms, suites and lge houses for ex-patients. Call Gerry at MPA.
 - Wanted: Illustrators, writers, reporters, typists etc. to work on In a Nutshell. Contact Stan at MPA.
 - Wanted: Bakers for MPA functions. Call Molly 733-7891
 - Wanted: Crisis Volunteers to answer phones. Call Cathy Batten at MPA.