

by Bret Hodgert  
Design Editor

## ALONE

I stand alone  
in a farmers field  
after the burn  
and think

Your absence  
is a carnival  
after closing  
The rides  
are still  
The lights  
are down  
and the excitement  
is gone  
all the crowds  
have gone home  
and I am alone  
I am a rock  
thrown from a cliff  
to fall  
into a stormy sea  
sinking  
alone  
I am a bush  
in a desert  
dry  
desolate  
forgotten  
alone

I sit here  
sinking  
watching the walls  
Thinking  
wondering if you  
are alone too



## Reality and the great 'Is' explored

by Thad Kreisher  
Contributing Writer

So, where are we at then? As I recall, and I could be wrong, (but not likely), we were trying to figure out what makes people sane. I've been going out of my mind thinking about it all week, and I still don't have a clear cut answer.

Oh well, guess we'll just have to wing it and trust that the energy's there. I'm sure it'll all come together in the end. It always seems to, doesn't it. Strange how that works.

Anyhow, insane or sane, what's the verdict. Well now, I suppose we have a few things to consider here. First of all, we're going to take yet another look at something I really like observing: society. American society in particular. Now the point is society's apparent conception of sanity and the contradictions thereof.

Now, let's suppose that there are three ways of looking at things. The first is how you, personally, as an individual, view things. Now all the outside influences in your life - friends, family, upbringing, personal beliefs, etc. - influence this perception. Keep that in mind. The second is how other people view things. They too have outside influences that shape their reality. Perhaps you've noticed that sometimes when people interact, several things can happen. Either you can relate fairly well to this person, or you can relate, but not so well, or in rare cases you meet someone who is on a totally different wavelength. This is what I call "Conflicting Realities."

This brings us to our third point: That is, outside of these

two perceptions there is a third, a definite reality, a constant that is free from outside influence. It is what is really going on as opposed to what you perceive going on in any given situation. It is purely cause and effect. It isn't good, it isn't evil, it isn't fair, and it does not cheat. It is merely life, free from outside influence and per-

Let's say for instance, that I'm pulling out of the College for lunch and my car is broadsided by a semi, killing my best friend in the passenger seat. Seems totally meaningless, totally devoid of purpose. Why did he die? For what reason was this person killed? What did he/she do to deserve this fate? It seems totally

situations. For instance, some people believe that reality works according to an overall plan, that there is an ultimate goal. They believe that this reality is under the direction of a supreme being and that all things happen for a purpose. I think the concept is called destiny. For me, things seem to happen this way. But, we must ask, is that just the way I choose to view things, or is it the truth? That you have to decide for yourself. Simple enough, right?

Simple, except for one thing: What does the perception of reality, destiny, and emotion have to do with insanity, sanity, and American society? We'll get to that next week. Trust me, it all ties together, really.

## Grey

## Matter

by  
Thad Kreisher

## Pudding

sonal biases.

If you've ever had something totally senseless happen to you and you asked why and someone said to you, "That's just the way things are," then you probably know a little more of what I'm getting at.

"That's just the way things are." The definite, unchanging reality. The great "Is." This reality is both logical and senseless. Ah, paradox, I love it.

Let's suppose that we put aside all outside influences, all personal biases and beliefs. In effect, we step outside ourselves and take a look at the so called "cold, hard facts." I feel that it is next to impossible for any human to be 100 percent objective, but if we could, what would we see?

We'd see pure reality. Things happen for no discernable reason. There seems to be no point to the bad or the good. It all just happens.

senseless.

However, let us look at reality's infallible logic. I pulled out and didn't see the semi. The semi was going too fast to stop. Upon impact, the speed of the semi, angle of the car, and position of my friend were such that my friend was killed and I was spared. That's it. This is how things are when we look at them totally objectively. It's not pretty, and for thinking, feeling creatures, (such as most humans are), it is impossible to constantly view life in this way. After all, on the whole, we're not machines, we're blessed, (cursed?), with emotion. Such cold logic is unbearable.

So as a result, each person views things in his/her own way. We are put into a myriad of situations, and have many outside influences that shape our reality. The way we perceive reality dictates how we deal with these

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WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO WHEN YOUR GIRL FRIEND HAS LEFT YOU, YOUR TV SET IS BROKEN AND YOUR JOGGING SUIT IS IN THE WASH?



## GIVE BLOOD

location **CCC Mall**  
date **Wednesday Feb. 11**  
time **10:00am - 3:00pm**

