

**OZ**

Volume 16, 1994

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## Prologue

*"We have seen, that, among democratic nations, the sources of poetry are grand, but not abundant. They are soon exhausted: and poets, not finding the elements of the ideal in what is real and true, abandon them entirely and create monsters. I do not fear that the poetry of democratic nations will prove insipid, or that it will fly too near the ground; I rather apprehend that it will be forever losing itself in the clouds, and that it will range at last to purely imaginary regions. I fear that the productions of the democratic poets may often be surcharged with immense and incoherent imagery, with exaggerated descriptions and strange creations; and that the fantastic beings of their brain may sometimes make us regret reality."*

—Alexis de Tocqueville

In efforts to formulate (construct), art has become endlessly entangled with the mental idea (concept).

Attempts to create the artificial world have produced many disturbing objects that often communicate ambiguous/private meaning.

*Oz*, volume sixteen, wishes to explore the relationship between concepts and constructs—to discern how, or even if, the construct can be formed with meaning, coherence, and a "fantastic being" that will not "make us regret reality."

—C.T.D./ J.R.G.

**con•cept** \ 'kan,sept\ : something conceived in the mind : THOUGHT, IDEA, NOTION: as  
a. *philos* : a general or abstract idea : a universal notion : the resultant of a generalizing mental operation : a generic mental image abstracted from percepts ; *also* : a directly intuited object of thought : a theoretical construct  
b. *logic* : an idea comprehending the essential attributes of a class or logical species

**con•struct** \ kenz'trekt\ : to construe or interpret : to put together (as constituent parts) so as to form, make, or create something ; BUILD, FABRICATE : to create by organizing ideas or concepts logically, coherently, or palaply : to assemble separate and often disparate elements : to make (something unnatural or artificial) by fabrication

—Webster's Dictionary