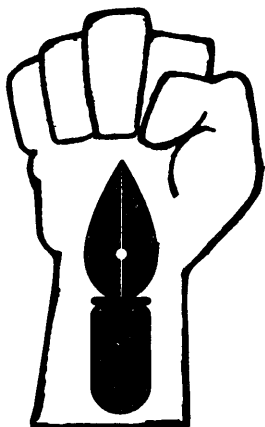


letters



Dear Editors,

I have just read the ACJ and feel moved to write to congratulate you.

I'm a criminal (I suppose), as I recently served a three-year sentence for importing cannabis. I was fined \$1,000 too.

The point I was going to make is that all this study and research is really just a load of bullshit — unless researchers really do want to help crims, potential crims, and ex-crim, in which case there are so many more positive ways of going about it. But for a start they must get away from their cosy 'middle-class' security, values and prejudices, and really 'get inside the heads' of the guys they are studying. I could rave on, but I know that you understand what I'm getting at.

Often when I walk past the NZ Justice Department's research section here in Wellington, I feel an urge to march in, kick over a few filing cabinets and tables, then accuse them all of being frauds and charlatans. Oh yes, it's nice to draw up lots of lovely-looking graphs and statistics and things, but meanwhile, all those guys (and women) out there in the prisons are just rotting on. Nothing changes. The 'research' being done here reminds me of someone standing at the bottom of a cliff watching people fall off the edge every now and then, and saying, "Yes, and there's another one, . . ." and marking it down on their chart, whereas all the time they should be at the top of the cliff repairing the bloody fence, or better still making sure that nobody comes too near the edge.

Anyway, keep up the good work. I hope that good things come out of it.

F.
New Zealand.

Sydney.

22, 10, 1975.

Dear friend, Over the last 2 years there was news publicity about this Exprisoners Action Group. Now since I've been a uncorrected law breaker since years ago. I broken the law dozens of times before and have't been convicted yet. I wish to donate \$ 2 to my unknown ex criminal prisoners friends Action Group. 1. to help the exprisoners. 2. help the prisoners demonstrations fight against the law. I'm with the criminals all the way now. Straught out comradeship trouble with me on the exprisoners side. I couldn't care less of being sent to goal now. destroy all goals now. I would like to become a member of yours Exprisoners Action Group when shift to another state. good luck

From Yours Exconvict Rain Ghost.