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Naturally we hope that you find each edition of CJM interesting, informative and different. This issue is, we trust, no exception. But why Insiders? This issue represents an attempt to climb inside a situation, a personal experience, a group endeavour... by men and women in all sorts of insider positions within the criminal justice system.

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This issue of CJM, therefore, does not lend itself to a convenient policy or agency debate - it is an open journey. We begin with Peter Dalrymple's return to prison after 10 years on the outside - a case of recidivism? Not exactly, but what does he feel being back inside again as a maingrade probation officer?

Indeed, what do others feel who are inside the same institution? We hear from 2 prisoners and from Mick Daly, an officer in the same prison.

Lennie L and A Appleton add a vouthful dimension with their insider experience of court, a YOI and a Remand Centre - their forthright views bringing the essential perspective of the client.

A different 'inside' is that experienced by Jean Tyers, who worked as a probation officer in a Female Remand Centre for 5 years before her transfer to a local prison three years ago.

Kevin Kirwin, another probation officer (Inner London), explains why he feels the demise of the 'all singing, all dancing probation officer' is to be regretted.

We are familiar with many of the published reports from HM Inspectorate of Prisons - but behind the scenes, how does HMIP operate? Steve Bass an Inspector with HMIP explains why they never pick the right week for their inspection. Judge Michael Astill has a unique insider position as a circuit judge on the Midland and Oxford circuit - he takes us through the significant features of a judge's work. From the same side of the bench Tony Sainsbury recounts some of the frustration and demands of his role as a chairman of an Inner London Magistrate's Court.

A unique organisation, Clean Break Theatre Company, provides a glimpse of its latest professional production, Red,

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Julia Braggins

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by Anna Reynolds which revolves around the stories of two women who have both killed their husbands. Christine, a female prostitute for almost 23 years, adds another dimension and gives us (via Catherine Benson), some insight into her views about the stigma that is assigned by outsiders to her business.

Rod Watson takes this issue of stereotyping and stigmatising a stage further, and reveals, from the inside, some of the alleged operational styles of police interrogation in Canada that exploit gender and utilise sexist prejudices to secure convictions. Peter Hodgkinson, takes us to Death Row, USA. In his capacity as Director of the Centre for Capital Punishment Studies, he compiles a view from the inside in the form of a letter to the President.

Back in the UK, David Bingham, a serving prisoner at HMP Gartree, writes to CJM to express his experience of being a lifer and reveals his concerns about the perceived lack of justice, humanity and hope afforded to Britain's life sentence prisoners. David Kidd-Hewitt & Julia Braggins

Each issue of CJM focuses on a special area of criminological interest. CIM 16 will consider Minorities in the Criminal Justice System. Contributions are welcome and will be considered for publication if sent to Julia Braggins by May 31st 1994. Publication, even of invited articles, cannot be guaranteed and we reserve the right to edit where necessary. Articles and letters can only be accepted on this basis.

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