EDITORIAL

It is undoubtedly a cliché to say that policing is currently at a crossroads. At present there seem to be at least three simultaneous developments within policing. The first is towards a centralised, coercive 'force' with extended legal process. The second is towards a more locally based community orientated approach in which the 'service' aspects of policing are emphasised. The third is towards a more pro-active privatised service which is governed by market and commercial principals. In this special edition on policing these developments are discussed and their implications examined. In the introductory article Rod Morgan and Tim Newburn examine the proposals put forward by the recent report from the Police Foundation/Policy Studies Institute which has offered a radical examination of the role of the police. Barry Loveday examines recent legislation, which he suggests could fundamentally affect the role of the police and that of central government in relation to it. Commander Bill Griffiths and Michael Waldren examine the more coercive aspects of policing and the issues relating to the prevention and detection of armed robbery. Trevor **Bennett** reflects on the developments in community policing and assesses the extent to which the promises of community policing have been achieved whilst Les Johnston examines the conditions which have led to the expansion of private policing

One aspect of policing which has attracted considerable attention is the increased reliance on technology, particularly closed circuit television. Nic **Groombridge** and **Karim Murji** take a critical look at the use of CCTV and question whether increased use of this equipment is as cost-effective as many commentators assume.

Whether policing is 'public' or 'private', centralised or community orientated, issues of recruitment and the opportunities for promotion remain. **Frances Heidensohn** traces out the impact which the growing number of female police officers have had on the occupational and operational structure of the police. **Ron Hope** describes the founda-

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tion of a new association for black police officers within the Met.

As all forms of policing appear to be becoming increasingly subject to more stringent financial controls, senior police officers are faced with the problem, as **Chief Constable Tony Butler** demonstrates, of funding major investigations. In a candid interview **Paul Whitehouse** who is Chief Constable of the Sussex Police raises the question of how police performance should be measured and expresses some doubts about the benefits of arming the police.

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Finally, the current developments in policing have put the whole issue of police accountability into a new light. **Robert Reiner** examines the changing focus of accountability amongst the police in recent years and **Tim Newburn** and **Trevor Jones** consider the prospects for developing forms of policing which are more accountable but no less effective. **Roger Matthews & Julia Braggins**

Each issue of CJM focuses on a special area of criminological interest. CJM 18 will consider **Crime and the Economy.** Contributions are welcome and will be considered for publication if sent to Julia Braggins by November 30th 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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