

**CRIME.** I recently had a visitor who was on a fact-finding mission, trying to work out what our penal system was all about, its methods and what results were achieved - that sort of thing. **He's** just gone back to his planet - bemused, if not confused. **In** his world there is no crime. Anyone criminally inclined is taken into the custody of their most exalted personalities; their case is thoroughly researched and their custodians will find measures that restore the deviants to the community. **So** this advanced being took a look at our planet's societies. **We** have worrying crime rates: Overt, violent crime - as well as antisocial conduct by some in positions of influence and power. **Our** visitor made a baffling observation: Once convicted, we put criminals into institutions - universities of crime, as it were - which provide them with the motivation and the opportunities to confirm, consolidate and develop their criminal tendencies. **My** alien friend could not come to any conclusion other than that in our world crime is accepted as an expression of our cultures and for some reason deemed worthy of nurturing.