

their concern in a more reformist and undoubtedly more realistic way, given that there will always be the rulers and the ruled. So one's alarm is for the endless horror stories of abuses of a system that exists --doesn't it? -- to help guide those who haven't conformed; to teach them through discomfort that it is more comfortable to conform and through instruction that it is morally better also. Some of us feel it's hard to find any convincing case for conformity except maybe on the grounds of comfort; who takes seriously the feeble claims for the "rehabilitating" effect of locks and bars.....I saw Premier Lewis on the box the other night apparently quite smug about the claimed reduction in recidivism in one section of one prison somewhere...what did he think that proved?

What do I think this rave of mine proves? Only that I'm writing to you. I have nothing to say that warrants an "article" with the implications of a thesis, a point of view, a specific subject. That's why I'm making this more of a letter. I am spending a non-typical Saturday night in a way that I hope will become typical, in a little cottage just over the mountains, surrounded by hills trees sheep and a stunning amazing silence; the smell of a vegetable soup on the fuel stove which is giving the room some much needed warmth, and the yeasty smell of bread rising (I hope it's rising! -I'm still an amateur bread-maker and don't want to be discouraged). I've begun to learn things I always thought I couldn't do - crochet, embroidery, gardening, chopping wood.....No longer engaged in playing at Careers, no income but the government's not-very-generous Unemployment relief and owning very little, I'm going back to Sydney to pack, go to the Womens Film Festival and then return here and get into whatever this choice will bring me. I guess the basic question is always how do you live your life. I have to reconcile my determined hedonism and taste for the extremes of decadence which depend on their existence on capitalism, with my nostalgic craving for a simpler existence....

People like you who offer so much by way of friendship sharing and concern in a situation I imagine would drive me to despair are important. I hope "Contact" will continue to be just that -- and keep us in touch. I figure we're all trying to work out how to live in what seems to be a crazy ugly hopeless world that sometimes startles you with inexpressible beauty. Who would dare live by what Alan Watts once said... "The natural state of [wo]man is ecstatic wonder. Why should we settle for less?"