

Some letters that came in from the cold

FIRST, an extract from a letter by Aids denialist Anthony Brink to political analyst Steven Friedman:

“Dear Steven . . . I’m regularly slapped about by the mediocrities who edit and write for the local tabloids, but I’m rather more interested in takes on my work by real journalists and writers. I’m referring to risk-taking, truth-telling guys like . . . Rian Malan and John le Carré. Also John Pilger . . . from whom I received a wonderful compliment yesterday that will be going straight onto the front cover.”



LE CARRÉ
Not very smiley

Not exactly true

A LETTER from John Le Carré:

“Dear Mr Brink, When I wrote to you four years ago, I congratulated you on contributing to the difficult arguments that at that time raged around the HIV/Aids crisis. I was not then aware of the extremity of your views, and I did not in any case support them. Now I learn that you have made a convenient extrapolation from my letter which conveys the totally false impression that I am on your side of the argument. I am not. I stand fair and square in the opposing camp and I am humiliated and angered that you should have traduced my letter in this way . . . Yours sincerely, John le Carré”

In fact, totally false

E-MAIL from John Pilger to Patrick Bond: “In no way do I endorse any of that stuff, and I am about to e-mail Anthony to make that clear. Please do say to the TAC people I definitely do NOT endorse the contrary view, and am looking into it.”