

‘Creative Relations in Secondary Education’

The AHP's education conference, uneasily disguised as a short course at the Polytechnic of Central London, was attended by about fifty people, most of them teachers in London secondary schools but some coming from Tyneside, the Midlands and the Home Counties. In one weekend we could only hope to offer a sample of the possible approaches and this I think we did in a way which was for most members very effective. A structure evolved which enabled us to work in flexible and in set groupings and cope with problems of choice and of matching resources to needs. Everyone went into a small ongoing 'home base' group which met each evening. For the four main half-day sessions a wide variety of workshops was offered. A great deal of energy was generated: throughout the weekend people were experiencing and learning about relationships, growth, power, aggression, language, games, therapies, organisation, systems, conflicts, energy, learning, and most of them clamoured for as much more in the future as we can again organise. I really enjoyed the good feelings that were in the air and the involvement and positive activity of so many creative people. Perhaps our 'message' came through most meaningfully in what was for me the really valuable culmination of the experience: a confrontation between Larry Butler, my co-organiser, and myself in the final Aggression and Conflict session, in which we were able to work through our mutual antagonisms, with the facilitative help of Ronald Ullmann and the whole conference, in such a way that we now feel able to collaborate effectively in future projects, and involve the willing energy of many interested people. We begin with the Follow-Up Day on May 10th (which is open also to people who couldn't be at the March weekend—details from *Self and Society* office—) and out of what we hope for various projects to be set up, including genuine meetings with educational authorities. We feel also that a longer, perhaps residential, version of the weekend is needed, and I hope we can make that a reality. It's all growing—and that's what it's all about.

Alix Pirani