

grated to the USA.
Communist greetings,
Pete Evans, Stockport, Ches.

Dear Big Flame,
I am unhappy about
one aspect of the last two cover

and thereby links reasonable aims to
revolutionary ways of fighting for
them. The articles failed to explain

in solidarity,
John Chance,
(East London BF)

at the Kingswest. Groups still to be
fixed.

BIG FLAME ON SEA

The search is on for the scene of next year's Big Flame Summer School. Rain and over-enthusiastic site managers threw a cloud over the early days of this year's, held on the North Yorkshire coast, near Whitby. Publicans visibly blanched at the sight of so many noisy commies (for the word gets around quickly in a village) in their lounges. But we overcame all this and settled down to enjoy each other's company, and the countryside. Fresh fish and chips in Whitby, days out to the beach and the steam railway with the kids, days in with visiting speakers — Huw Beynon, Margaret Coulson, Ray Challinor, the Agri-capital Group — and nights in with films — Harlan County, the Rattle of Chile — and our own raucous home made entertainment into the early hours: these are some of the things that stand out. Here's the personal view of one woman on how the week went for her.

After two sleepless nights, a long journey from London and the initial shock of the weather, I settled down to enjoy the most incredible experience of my life. The first few days brought mixed feelings of apprehension and homesickness. I'll elaborate on this later. These feelings led me to seek the security of companions whom I already knew. The thought of going outside of my South London circle of comrades filled me with panic. Through the open

relationships formed by the children I soon became involved with some extraordinary and wonderful people.

During my twelve years of motherhood I have never been apart from my children except when their health has been so bad that they have been hospitalised. Under these circumstances I have not been able to benefit from the separation because of entrenched stress, strain and exhaustion. The week in

Yorkshire brought me emotional and physical freedom from my sons. For the first time in my life I was able to observe their behaviour and interaction with adults and children. It was an education.

The younger of my sons formed an intimate and inseparable relationship with another boy. This was another 'first' in the experience of our family. Peter has always found it very difficult to make friends until this event.

My eldest son Vernon thrived on the attention given to him by anyone who was involved in his 'child-care'. He took advantage of fresh pastures to graze on each day. In fact, Vernon never mentioned anyone unless he added the words "and they were really nice."

To return to my feelings of apprehension and homesickness. At first I was afraid of absolutely everything and everyone. I found myself trying too hard to be liked. As I unwound and relaxed (and did not feel guilty about someone else taking the responsibility for my children) my thoughts turned to my personal politics. I have spent many hours during and since the week in Yorkshire trying to explain to my children that I am a Socialist. This

was something I was afraid and ashamed to do before. This 'shame' has now turned to 'pride' because I now realise how important it is for me to live in a way which I adamantly believe in.

The films, discussions, workshops and singsongs gave me more than education, understanding and entertainment. They gave me a clearer line to follow now that the week is over and I am back in my four walls at Sydenham.

In my opinion the advantages of the Summer School were numerous. My only criticism was that I felt afraid to enter into conversation with the 'professional revolutionaries' I lacked the confidence to approach these members first. A feeling of elitism was, I felt, always present. As I understand it, the policy of Big Flame is to try to encompass and encourage the working class into the organisation. A little less austerity would be welcome. Please remember that it took a lot of courage, for me that is, to become politically involved. This could be the feeling that many others experience.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone concerned in making this holiday possible. Thank you.



Thurs. 7th.
* NHS Day of Action organised by the Sussex Movement Against Cuts in the Health Services.
* Resource Centre Benefit Bop. Piranhas, Nicky and the Dots, Devil's Dykes and the Dodgems. Brighton Corporation Bus Depot Social Club, Lewes Rd. 60p. entrance, 40p claimants.

SOUTH LONDON BIG FLAME OPEN WORKSHOPS

Weds. Sep. 27th — The lessons of the Garners Strike. (Alvaro Miranda — Westminster Trades Council) (To be confirmed)

Weds. Oct. 25th. — Chile Now and future perspectives. 2 films — 'Campamente' and 'To The People Of The World' — with two speakers from the MIR.

Weds. Nov. 29th. — Local Government and the Politics of the Community.

Weds. Dec. 20th. — Personal Politics and the Left.

All workshops will be held in Room 5, St. Matthew's Meeting Place, Brixton Hill, London SW2. Buses 2,3,109, 159, 95, 133, 172, 45, 35, 37. Tube — Brixton.

NORWICH

East Anglian Region's Women's Weekend — 7th-8th October.

Workshops on childcare, the family, women in waged work etc. and how we can fight together against our oppression. Dance and music sessions. Creche. Social Sat. night.

For registration/details contact Gill or Jo, 101 Shipfields, Norwich. Tel: 0603-413603.

INTERVENTION No.2 OUT NOW!

'Revolutionary Politics as a Hobby'. Jim Masters airs the unmentionables for the Left. An essay on the irrational in politics — the left as a subculture. Copies 62p. (inc. p&p) from Intervention, 539 Battersea Park Rd. London SW11.

SHEFFIELD

DAY OF SOLIDARITY AGAINST RACISM — Sat. 16th Sept. March, Rally and social. March assembles 10.30 a.m., Carlyle St. Afternoon events start 1.30 p.m. University. Forums on trade unions, education and racism + films. Social 7.30 p.m. University Student Union.

LIVERPOOL

Merseyside Anti-Racist Alliance March and concert. 10th Sept. Assemble Shaw St. 10.30 a.m. for march to Walton Hall Park — local bands.

ABC Campaign Picket Old Bailey Tuesday 5th September 9.00am (Jointly sponsored by the N.U.J.)