

BROADSHEET No 10 Supplement

CLASS WAR



**THE
BEST
CUT
OF
ALL**

Regular readers of the 'CLASS WAR' newspaper could be forgiven for thinking that the people who write it are nothing more than a bunch of hate-filled nutters without a serious political idea in their heads. The is definitely the image that certain national daily and Sunday newspapers would have people believe. It is also, we must admit, an image that the Class War organisation itself once courted, for one reason or another.

When they actually meet us and discover that we are in fact a pretty sane bunch with a political consciousness no less than that of any other political group, many people ask us why, if we are serious about wanting to "change the world", do we produce a paper full of 'Hospitalised Coppers' and articles about the ruling class's genitalia?

The following article is an attempt to answer that question.

PROPAGANDA

In the most general sense, the aim of producing any politically orientated literature, whether it be a newspaper, leaflet or 'theoretical journal', is

— A SERIOUS BUSINESS

to get certain ideas or beliefs across to the people who read it.

The large majority of political newspapers available in the UK at present do not meet this basic objective.

True, not everyone who reads, say, 'Socialist Worker', is a member or even a supporter of the SWP. However, the majority are at least vaguely 'leftwing' and a large proportion are political activists. Therefore, such papers are, to all intensive purposes, preaching to the converted.

Socialist Worker

Inside
Socialists and the
Labour Party
The fight goes
on

WHAT WENT WRONG?

If this were not the case and left-wing papers were bought and read by and influential upon the mass of working class people, then we would have had 'socialism' in one form or another in the UK years ago, or at least some serious attempt to achieve it.

The plain fact of the matter is that ordinary, non-politicised working class people are not interested in political newspapers and are certainly not going to fork out between twenty and forty pence for the privilege of reading one.

VANGUARDISM

It could be argued that the majority of left-wing groups who produce news-

papers are not really that bothered about giving the masses some socialist education or enlightening them about the oppressive system under which we live.

Socialists, or more precisely Marxist-Leninists, believe in the idea of the 'Revolutionary Party' or vanguard which seizes power on behalf of the working class. In theory this Party is made up of the most militant members of the working class - although in practice it is more likely to consist of middle-class intellectuals!

By 'most militant' they mean, of course, those with a certain degree of political consciousness, and not just those who are angry enough about something to get off their arses to do something about it.

Thus the political paper in this case is used to try to unite those 'militants' around a particular brand of Marxism-Leninism in order to 'build the Party, rather than trying to convert the masses to socialism. After all, a paper that was successful in stirring up the masses might provoke a revolution that The Party couldn't control!

There is also a belief amongst the left that people learn through struggle. That is, they become more open to new political ideas when they find themselves in conflict with a system they may have previously supported. For instance when workers are involved in a dispute with their employers. Thus you will always find hordes of lefty paper sellers swarming around picket lines during a strike, trying to 'build the Party'.

The CLASS WAR FEDERATION subscribe to the 'learning through struggle' idea too, and as such we involve ourselves and participate in the struggles of the rest of our class whenever we can, both in the community and the workplace. However, we do not believe in sitting around waiting for the

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**THE MINERS
HAVE
THE RIGHT IDEA**

various sections of the working class to find themselves in struggle so we can go and sell them a news paper telling them what they should and shouldn't do.

We believe that our ideas must become part of peoples everyday lives, not just something that is a reaction to a hostile economic, social and/or political environment. Attempting to push political ideas through stories about strikes, demonstrations, criticisms of the Labour Party and TUC to the exclusion of all else that is not considered 'political'

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**MURDOCH
YOU ARE**



Scum

has the effect of 'ghettoising' such ideas. In other words most people end up seeing politics as only relating to other people in overt struggle, and not relevant to their own everyday lives.

Therefore, however readable a political paper is, whilst it continues to be overtly political in nature it will never, given the present circumstances, be popular and read by a wide cross-section of the working class.

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Therefore, given our politics, Class War need a paper which is: a) appealing to the large mass of working class people; and b) not concerned with overtly political issues to the exclusion of all else.

THE TABLOIDS

We realised that the papers that are most effective at getting ideas and attitudes into people's minds are not the political ones like 'Socialist Worker' or 'The Next Step', but rather the popular daily and Sunday tabloids. Nobody would ever think of calling 'The Sun' a political newspaper, yet it has been more successful in implanting ideas into working class people's heads than the left could ever hope to be. After all, who invented such common place terms as 'The Loony Left' and 'Barmy Bernie'? And who was it that knocked Michael Foot's political career on the head by giving more column inches to his duffle coat than his politics?

IDEOLOGY

Pick up any copy of 'The Sun' and you can find dubious political ideology hidden on virtually every page. From the statement about women and sex on Page 3 to the jingoism splattered across the sport pages.

Any issues that might provoke any sort of working

class solidarity or fight back are either totally ignored, misreported or trivialised, either by giving undue prominence to irrelevancies (like Arthur Scargill's haircut or by relegating the story to a inch-sized space at the bottom of page 12.

THE PAPER THAT CARES **DAILY EXPRESS** THE VOICE OF BRITAIN

YOU can help Margaret Thatcher make Britain really GREAT again

GIVE THE GIRL A CHANCE!



WHY THE EXP BELIEVES IT IS TIME FOR CHANGE CENTRE PAGES

Most commonly, however, the reader's attention is diverted away from such issues by the huge amounts of space devoted to 'Angie and Den' or 'Is Your Neighbour a Werewolf?' articles, making them seem more important.

The proprietors of the various newspapers will claim, of course, that they are merely writing about what the punters are interested in. Others may argue that it is the media which dictates and manipulates the people's interests.

However, such 'Chicken or Egg' arguments are totally irrelevant. The fact is that papers like 'The Sun', 'The Star' and the 'Daily Mirror' are read enthusiastically by around 20 million working class people in Britain every day. This is a reality that anyone who wishes to produce a popular 'alternative' newspaper must come to terms with.

THE 'NEW' CLASS WAR In early 1987 it was agreed to adopt a new format for the 'CLASS WAR' newspaper, ►

and make a effort to apply our politics to the same sort of subjects that the popular tabloids cover: sex scandal, television, sport, and so on. Whatever the reasons these are the things that many working class people enjoy reading about even if we think they're not the sort of things they ought to enjoy reading about! We also decided to dispense with any 'unnecessary' swearing.

TEBBIT'S BALLS...

Since then, two issues of the paper have been published. They included many articles that would not have been seen in earlier issues: articles about the Cynthia Payne sex scandal, football, popstars' sex lives, 'East Enders', betting and the Beastie Boys. However, the most significant 'new style' articles were the scandalous exposés of the ruling class: The Queen is an impostor; the late Duchess of Windsor had a secret operation to reduce the size of her vagina; Norman Tebbit lost his testicles in the Brighton bombing!

CRITICISM

These particular articles provoked a fair amount of criticism both from within and outside the Federation. It was claimed that:
a) the stories were untrue;
and b) that they had nothing to do with Class War's politics.

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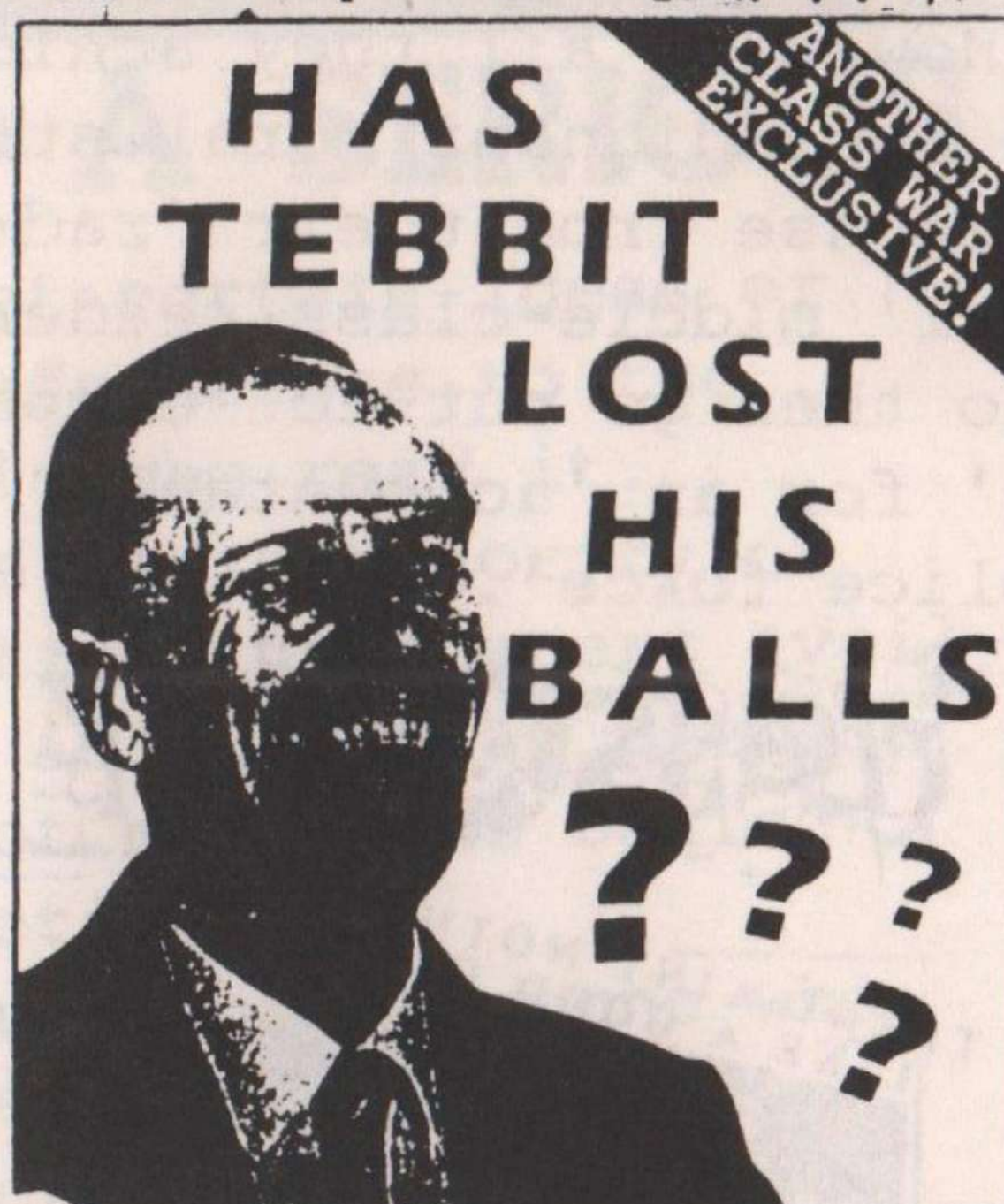
ROYAL EXCLUSIVE!

**IS
THIS
THE
REAL
QUEEN
?**



CLASS WAR REVEALS SENSATIONAL
ROYAL COVER UP -
FULL STORY ON PAGE 2!

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All three stories were based upon the sort of unverifiable gossip and rumour that the national tabloids thrive upon. Who can say whether they were true or not? And is their truthfulness particularly relevant? The common theme running through all the stories was their humour. Getting people to laugh at those in a position of power does, to a certain extent, undermine their authority. Laughter has the effect of 'desanctifying' them and the institutions they represent, and this is half way to getting people to actually attack them.

Looked at in this light, such articles are probably far more subversive than and relevant to our class politics than anything published in a political paper before.

Of course, the matter of sales and marketability was not entirely forgotten.

Street sales of both issues, with their covers devoted to "Is This The Real Queen?" and "Has Tebbit Lost His Balls?", doubled that of previous issues. Given the number of hours we spend actually selling the paper, it would not be unreasonable to suggest that these issues outsold every other political paper in the country!

AN ANARCHIST 'SUN'?

However, readers should not assume that we are attempting to turn 'CLASS WAR' into a kind of anarchist version of 'The Sun'.

Although such papers are highly skilled at implanting their nasty ideas and attitudes into peoples' minds, they differ from 'CLASS WAR' in one very important aspect. Unlike 'CLASS WAR', the tabloids are not trying to get their readers to actually do anything.

'CLASS WAR', as well as trying to convince people of the evils of capitalism are also trying to persuade people to get off their arses and overthrow it!

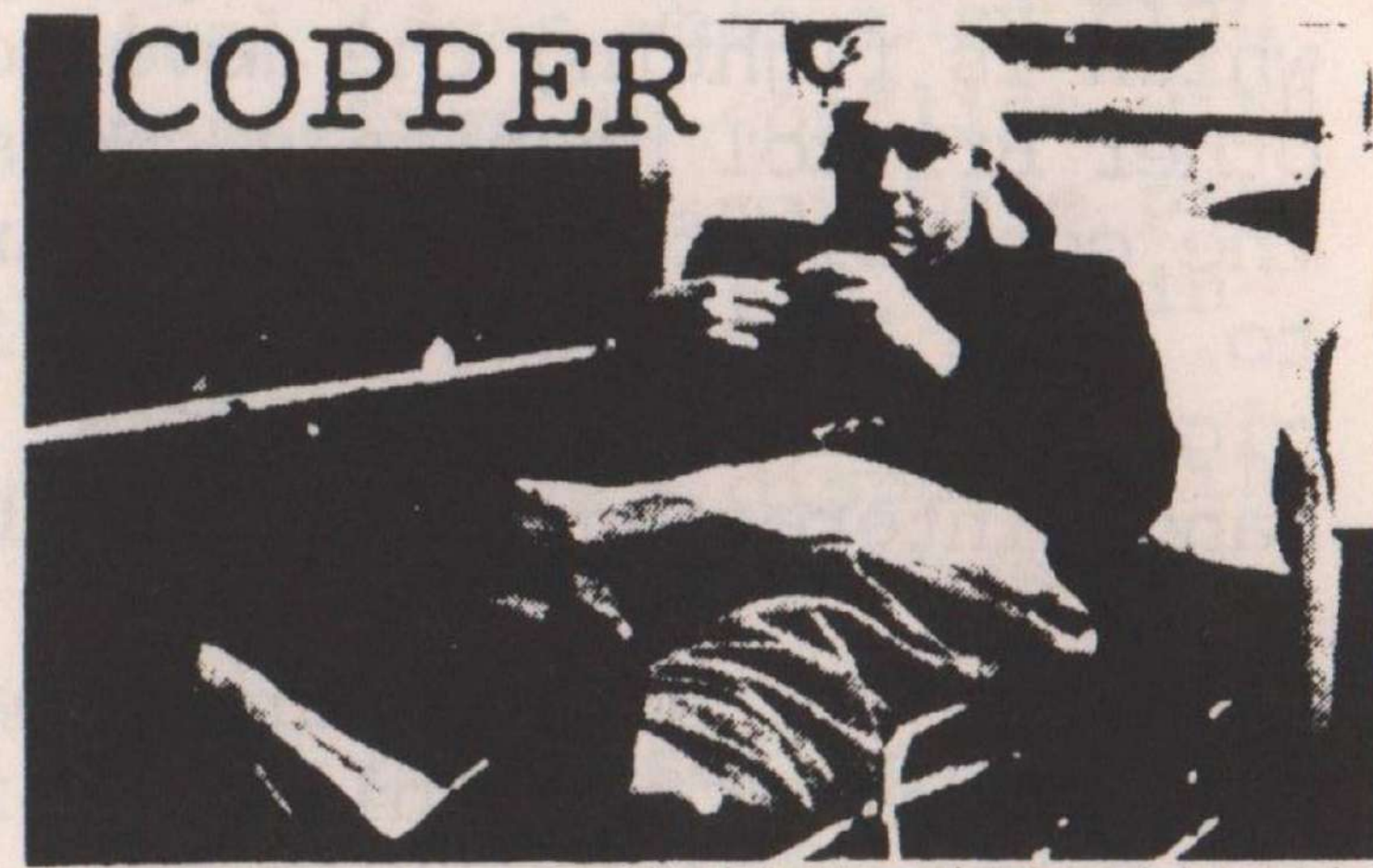
'The Sun', however, prefers the working class to be tucked safely away in their front rooms watching 'Eastenders', and then once every five years going out to vote Tory. They do not actually want their readers to take to the streets and string up the nearest "Loony" Labour councillor (unfortunately!).

Despite what they may write about Jeffrey Archer or Prince Edward they are fully committed to the ruling class and the maintenance of the status quo. They do not want people indulging in any sort of untoward behaviour, right-wing or otherwise.

HOSPITALISED COPPERS

In order to motivate people to actually do something

**HOSPITALISED
COPPER**



* PC ARTHUR ARSEHOLE, AFTER BEING ATTACKED *
* WITH A ARF BRICK AT THE ANTI-ARPARTHEID *
* DEMO.....HE CAN COME AND ACHE IN OUR *
* AMBULANCE ANYTIME!! *

positive, the paper needs some more 'specific' articles to complement those of a more populist nature.

One of the most 'infamous' features of the 'CLASS WAR' paper has been the 'Hospitalised Copper' pinup. These pinups are not just the product of a sick sense of humour, but are intended to make an important political statement.

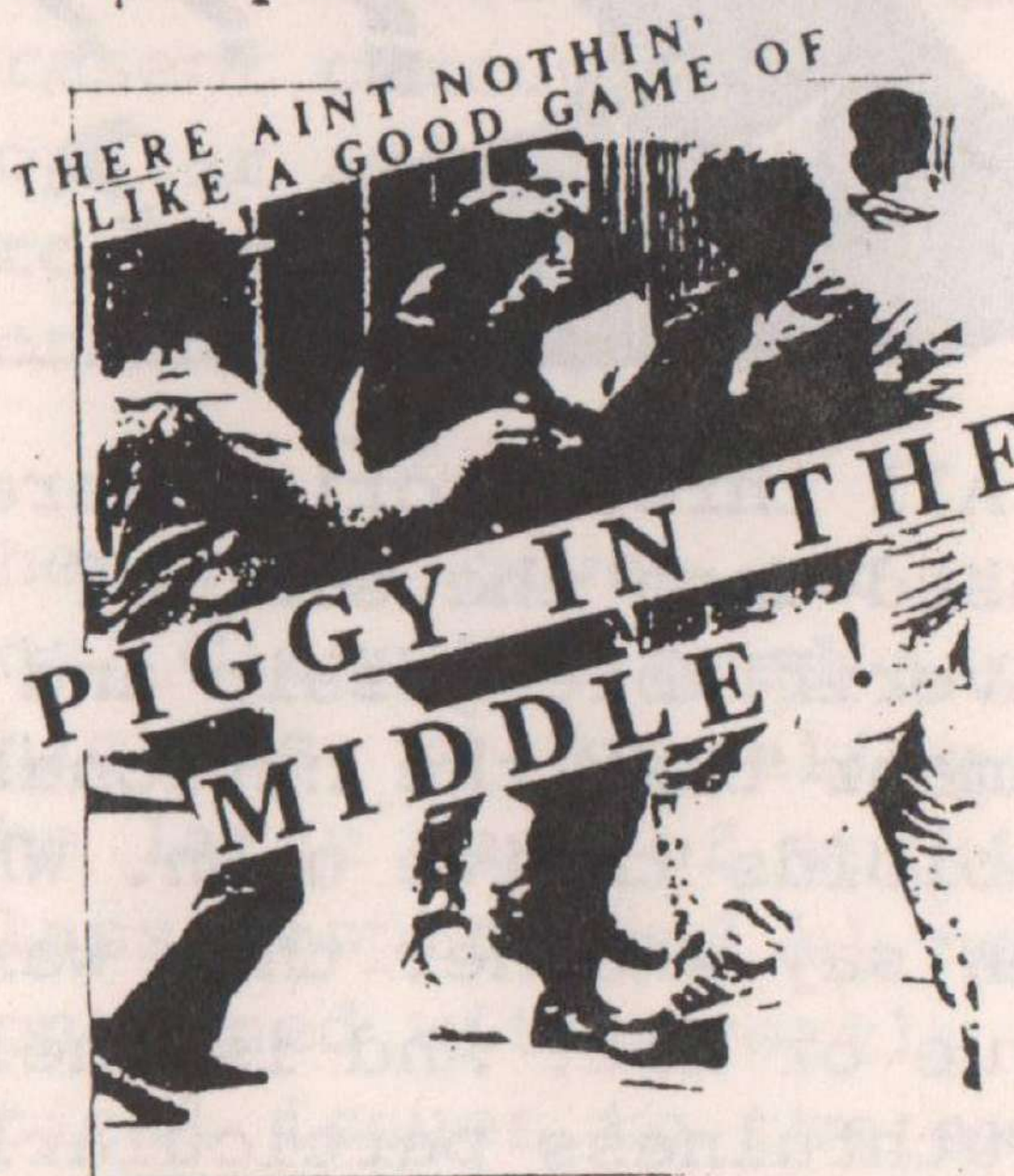
Like the "Tebbit's Balls" article they encourage people to laugh at things which are not supposed to be funny, i.e. violence against the police. Most reporting of violent conflict between working class people and the police is totally distorted, both by the mainstream press and by the left.

The mainstream press prefers to focus on the 'poor, defenseless bobby' suffering unprovoked attack from those evil blacks/miners/anarchists/etc. The left don't do much better. They fill their papers with stories and pictures of vicious-looking policemen making unprovoked attacks upon poor defenseless demonstrators/pickets/etc, and attempt to apologize or even condemn those who may have sought retribution. Their aim is obviously to

try to 'balance' the distorted reporting of the right with their own distorted reporting.

However, all they achieve is an indignant moralistic response from their 'radical' middle-class readers who then go out to 'campaign' for an 'accountable police force'.

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Meanwhile, any working class people who happen to fall for the left's account are likely to be totally demoralised, fearing that any murmur of dissent on their part will be met by an immediate and extremely violent response from some huge, baton-wielding and completely invincible riot cop. Hardly the sort of thing to inspire revolutionary fervour amongst the working class!

FIGHTBACK

There is also a need to undermine the myth that working class people aren't fighting back, and to help dispell the isolation that many militant working class people experience. Thus the riot-roundups, reports about anti-gentrification actions and other positive developments in working class resistance.

CONCLUSION

Finally, this article cannot cover every single story and picture that has ever appeared - or will appear - in 'CLASS WAR'. However, it is a serious attempt to explain what we consider a serious business - our paper.

We know and accept that 'CLASS WAR' is not and is unlikely to ever be 'perfect'. The fact that none of us is a trained journalist, editor or layout artist, and the decentralised manner in which the paper is produced virtually guarantee that.

But we do our best and try to make sure that we learn from our mistakes and experiences.

If you would like to help make 'CLASS WAR' even better, then contact your nearest local group today!

That article was reproduced from the Class War journal "The Heavy Stuff", and is an attempt to explain what Class War is about. Bristol Broadsheet is written by members of Class War in Bristol and concentrates on local issues.

As a group we are organising around fighting the Urban Development of the Bristol area, which will destroy our communities whilst the yuppies and property speculators take over our city and our lives. We have exposed the activities of the National Front in our Broadsheet and we will fight to stop these scum from organising in any way. Several members of our group are nurses and they have organised Class War Healthworkers which is fighting the move towards private health care, together with healthworkers in other Bristol hospitals. We support strikes, especially strikes or other actions outside the control of the Labour Party and Union Leaderships, and we involve ourselves in these to give practical and physical support where necessary. We are at present organising gigs as part of the Rock against the Rich music tour, and we are in touch with local bands interested in playing benefits for Class War.

We are for active participation in the Class struggle. We want a better world, free from the chains of the ruling elites and wage labour, and we are serious about achieving it. We are keen to contact and work with people involved in community or industrial struggles, or who would like to know more about our politics and what we do.

Please write to us at : Bristol Class War, PO Box 499, Bristol BS99.