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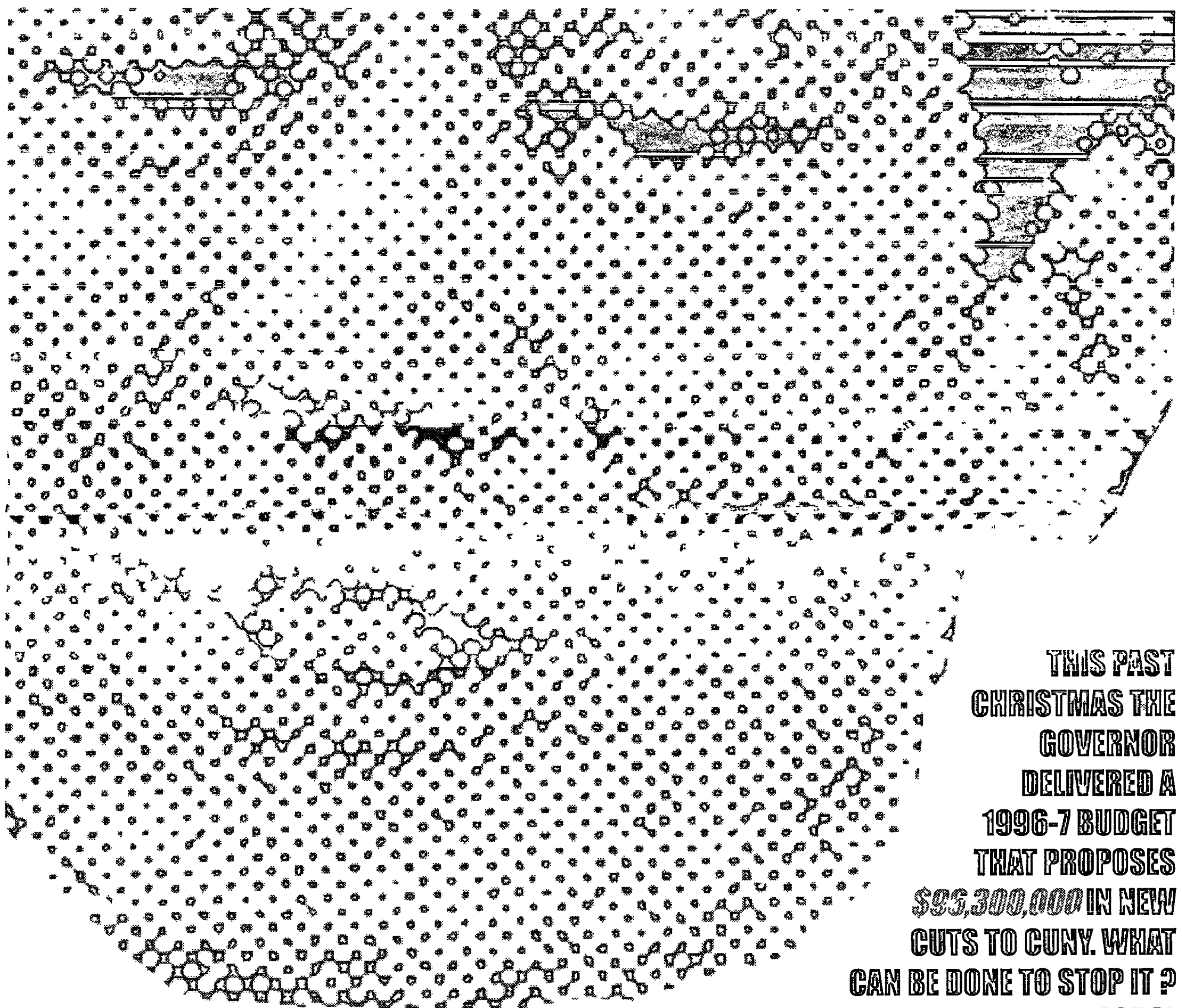
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AMERICAN RECONSTRUCTION THE NEW FACE OF FASCISM (PAGE 7)

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ADVOCATE

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK GRADUATE SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY CENTER



**THIS PAST
CHRISTMAS THE
GOVERNOR
DELIVERED A
1996-7 BUDGET
THAT PROPOSES
\$55,300,000 IN NEW
CUTS TO CUNY. WHAT
CAN BE DONE TO STOP IT?
(PAGE 3)**

SCROOGE PATAKI



**BINGHAMTON CALLING
THE MARKET FUNDAMENTALS MAND AN UPSTATE TOWN (PAGE 8)**

EDITORIALS

LA MEME CHOSE



IT'S HARD NOT TO BE impressed by the news from France these days. Students, teachers and workers have virtually shut down Paris and other major cities in a general strike that has daily brought millions of protesters into the streets. Demonstrators and striking workers are demanding that the French government save the country's social programs from the European Community's axe of austerity. It looks like the axe might just fall on government leaders instead.

It's also tempting to say that such exciting events don't happen on this side of the Atlantic. Yet the dissidence forwarded by the French people is not so very different from the anger many people feel today at any number of policies—at the dismantling of the New Deal programs, the attacks on immigrants and on abortion rights, like the U.S. Senate's December 7 vote to outlaw so-called "partial-birth abortions"

And there may not be millions of New Yorkers marching on City Hall at the moment, but rumblings in New York and around the country bear at least a vague resemblance to scenes from Paris. At the end of November Giuliani was able to convince AFSCME DC 37 President Stanley Hill to sign on to a sell-out contract covering over 200,000 city workers. Volcanic protest erupted at the delegates meeting when Hill tried to pass off the deal as some kind of victory. About this time, members of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) voted down their contract. Hospital workers and teachers, faced with lay-offs, increased workloads and privatization, are declaring enough is enough, things in New York are looking up.

Here at CUNY, there have been glimmers of this kind of resistance. CUNY professors launched the New Caucus at their founding convention December 2, unanimously voting in a platform committed to an activist union that organizes adjuncts and fights for affirmative action. CCNY students won a campaign for more library hours and BMCC faculty are organizing against threatened departmental closures (see Andrea Zimmerman's Clipboard item on page 10). Meanwhile, GSUC student Ron Hayduk, coordinator of the city's Voter Assistance Commission, showed admirable backbone in taking a principled stand against the Giuliani administration—and getting fired for it (see page 4).

These are all signs that people are organizing now...and just in time too because Pataki's mid-year budget cuts have arrived. And if we remember what CUNY looked like last spring, perhaps France doesn't seem so very different from us after all.—LEE WENGRAF

AN APPEAL TO THE GSUC COMMUNITY

TRAGEDY HAS BEFALLEN a member of our GSUC community. The wife of Mr. Jimmy Lu, a member of the doctoral program in Biology, was murdered on November 30. Mrs. Lu's body still lies in the hospital mortuary due to Mr. Lu's lack of financial resources. Mr. Lu is appealing to all members of the GSUC community for their assistance in order that his wife might be afforded a proper burial.

Students and members of faculty interested in supporting this endeavor are asked to send their donations to the Doctoral Students Council or to contact Mr. Lu at (212)772-5226. *The Advocate* strongly urges that all students reach out to Mr. Lu in his time of need.—TERRENCE BLACKMAN

MISTAKES WERE MADE

- Title 1 clearance for Lincoln Center occurred in 1955, not 1945.
- More *Advocate* surveys gave us middling to good marks. One person wants color on the cover. Sure, just give us the money. This same person wrote in: "So depressing. It's a downer read I'd like some room made for the joy of what we are doing—if there's any to be found... *Advocate* is like the Village Voice on Darvon." The Unaeditor? Sodomizing Hegel? By Eye of Newt and Hairpiece of Rudy? This isn't funny? What, does someone have to tickle your genitals with a feather?

ADVOCATE

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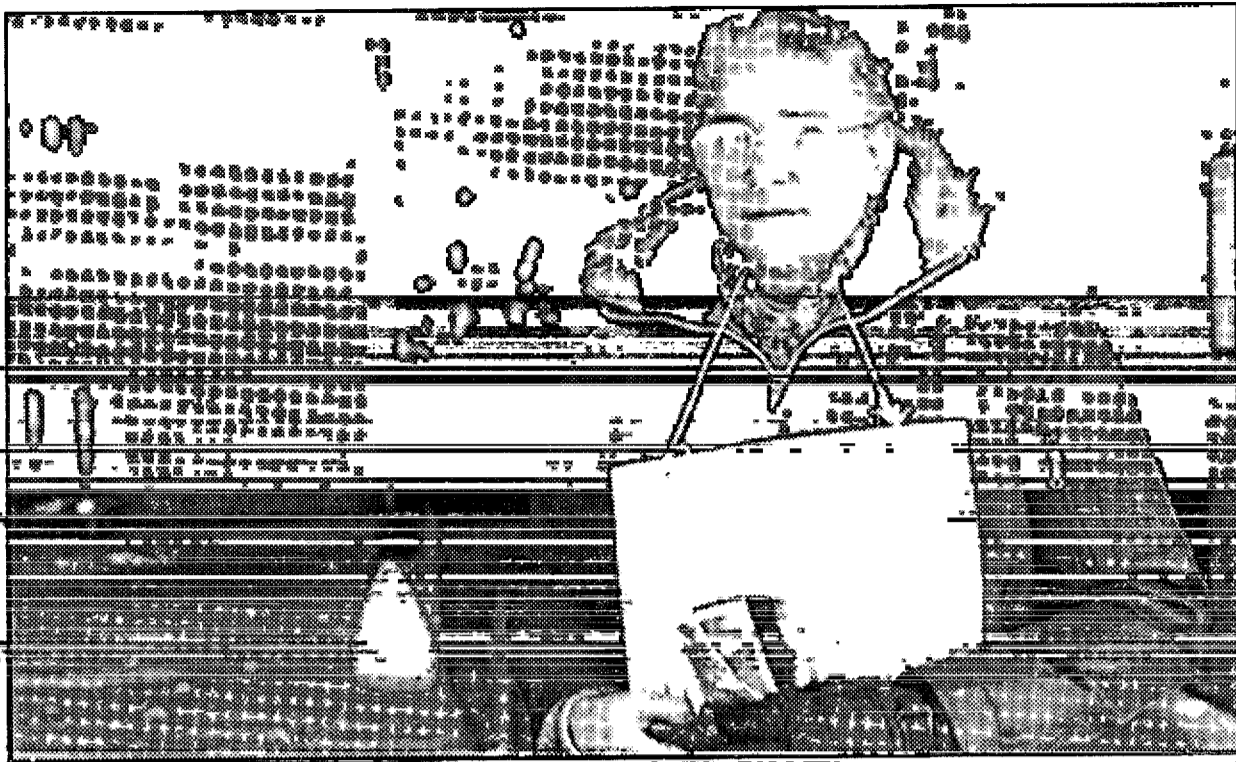
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Thanks also to the workers at the printers.

Letters to the Editor: Letters must be 500 words or less and they must be signed and submitted on a diskette. Please limit letters to one per letter writer per issue. The opinions expressed in *The Graduate Student Advocate* are those of the individual writers and in no way reflect the opinions of The Doctoral Students' Council or its officers. *The Advocate* is not responsible for fraudulent advertising. ■



As of Thursday, January 3, approximately 35,000 members of Local 32B-32J of Service Employees International Union struck their jobs at about 1000 office buildings around New York City including the World Trade Center, the Empire State Building, and the Graduate Center.

These maintenance, cleaning, porter and concierge workers walked out in response to demands by the Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations, an overarching management corporation. The Board wants employees to pay more into their health care plan and new workers to take nearly a 50% pay cut. Currently, workers earn \$573 a week. The new starting salary would be \$300 a week. Workers already employed fear that the reduced wages for new workers would create a two-tier wage system that could threaten their job security. Higher-paid workers may be fired on any pretext and replaced by lower paid workers. It would be a repudiation of decades of hard fought union victories. The Board spokesman declared to *The New York Times*, "The industry is looking for some economic relief."

One woman on the picket line who works at the Grad Center and has been a member of the union for 30 years doesn't see this contract as "economic relief". She stated, "We're saying we're hard working, but how are we supposed to survive? Who's going to pay my doctor bills now? They're trying to divide us." There are about 20 members of Local 32B-32J at the Grad Center.

There are numerous picket lines scattered throughout New York City, particularly in midtown, and on 42nd and 43rd Streets near the Grad Center. At 20 W. 43rd, approximately 20 workers maintained a picket line. With the strike only a day old, things turned ugly there. A scuffle broke out between a scab, office security guards and the strikers. According to Izet Radonicic, a picketliner, a scab, brandishing a stick, attempted to provoke the strikers into a throwdown. He then pushed an elderly employee to the ground and started beating other workers. Building security guards entered the fray. The scab dropped his stick and ran away. When police arrived, they arrested two strikers who, according to the workers, were not involved in the scuffle. Strikers estimated 10-15 scabs currently are working in 20 West.

Many strikers were outraged at the police's action as well as the proposed givebacks. "With all these cuts nobody can survive," said Radonicic, "They're only trying to take away."

Maria Silva, member of the cleaning staff for eighteen years, stated, "We're fighting because we don't want our children to starve. We're trying to protect our jobs."

Yet despite the acrimony, workers remain upbeat about their strike's chances. Leo Pieter (above), a 13-year maintenance worker just recently fired from the Grad Center, stated, "We've had a pretty good response. We're optimistic." Several workers seemed pleased that other unions like the Teamsters at UPS and Federal Express workers are honoring the strike.

Strikers want to build upon this unity by connecting their strike with other struggles. Stated Pieter, "The country and the city are in crisis, but they don't need to take our wages. The struggle involves everybody." Asked about possible student protests against budget cuts, Pieter declared, "When students go out, we'll be there."—ROBERT WALLACE & LEE WENGRAF

STRIKE!

The Advocate is supporting Local 32B-32J's strike. We are respecting the picketline by refusing deliveries. This issue was mailed from a staff member's home. We encourage the GSUC community to bolster the strike by refusing any and all deliveries and by not carrying out the work normally done by the strikers. The only power the strikers have is stopping business as usual at the Grad Center. Scab labor in any form breaks the back of the strike.

The Advocate is producing a special 4-page edition on the strike. It will not be mailed out. It will be available beginning February 6 at the Grad Center and on the picketline. ■

AD HOMINEM HOOEY

I AM PLEASED that Jacques Saleh ("No Such Thing as a Free Lunch", *Advocate* Letters, November) is open about his disagreements with *The Advocate*, and I hope that others have the "courage of their convictions" to write signed letters to the editor.

Unfortunately, Mr. Saleh's letter is on the one hand insubstantial in its criticism, and, on the other hand, highly rhetorical, or, in his words, polemical. With regard to the latter criticism, I can only point out that leftist political analysis is often given an anti-intellectual dismissal as "polemical", without a rigorous response to the issues and arguments in question. Social movements such as the civil rights movement of the 50s and 60s, and poor people nowadays are often referred to as "whiners", "complainers", or "moaners", and, to quote NYS Senator Joseph Bruno, "those people with their hands out." This kind of rhetoric is not only racist, mean spirited, and ad hominem but also demonstrates a refusal to argue one's underlying politics. After all, capitalism and its attendant social policies are not a matter of "lazy people", the "deserving poor" (a more famous formula), and "whiners", and you don't have to be an economist to know that.

As for the criticism of the paper's content, I still don't know which articles he has in mind other than the editorial, and isn't that supposed to be opinionated? Maybe, he simply doesn't like my opinions, but, again, he should offer a substantial critique. As for the articles, I firmly believe that they are not only factual and informative, but located in a national and even international analysis of late capitalism.

Andrew Long
Former Editor of *The Advocate*
Comparative Literature

NOMADIC ECONOMY

THE BIG BUSINESS bugaboo you're trying to slay, guys, is on its way to extinction, if not already extinct. So it'll be more useful to pick a fight with a less moribund beast than waste your energy charging against quixotic mills.

The days are gone when General Motors sneezed and the economy caught a cold. The economy is too diversified and de-centralized for one company or a group of big companies to call the shots.

It is mainly tiny companies and entrepreneurs who are creating most jobs nowadays, thanks to affordable technological power which allows them to be self-reliantly productive and innovative in various domains: graphic design, desktop publishing, computer, legal, financial, marketing consulting, freelance writing, translating, editing, so on. Ours has become the age of market niches and nimble nomads, not prehistoric, arthritic brontosaurus.

BULLETIN BOARD

THIS SPACE will be available for 1) classifieds (\$1 per word), and 2) free announcements from students and student groups about meetings, forums, bike to sell, apartment to rent, etc. Send in your announcement as soon as possible.

Wanted!!!

Individuals, Student Organizations and Small Groups to Promote SPRING BREAK '96. Earn MONEY and FREE TRIPS. CALL THE NATION'S LEADER, INTER-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

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1-800-327-6013

● The Campaign to End the Death Penalty is building a nationwide fight to overturn new laws putting the Death Penalty back on the books in many states. Pick up petitions and flyers in the International Socialists Organization office in the Student Center at the Grad Center.

● The National Association of Graduate and Professional Students has received an inquiry from a major newspaper doing a story on financing graduate school. Anyone interested in describing their own situation, please write 3 or 4 sentences along with contact information (name, school, phone number—required—and email address) to NAGPS@NET-COM.COM. NAGPS will forward the information to the reporter.

● *Advocate* Feed Media columnist Robert Wallace is launching *Leftward Ho!*, a tiny anti-corporate spewzine. Anyone interested in receiving a free copy write *The Advocate*.