

Panarticon

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It is raining cold, hard, and wet, but by the time you read this we may be basking in that warm glow, faces flush with the hunt and thrill of the kill, as we bomb the living shit out of Iraq; or, as the FBI's planes circle and circle over not only Washington, D.C., but the entire country, perhaps even Canada, in that uncanny hunt for that elusive sniper in the white van. This month's column will intersperse itself between quotes and links. Insofar as it is a "column," it sediments itself and extends its tendrils past its limited graphemes in memory of one Walter Benjamin and the *Arcades Project*, a man suicided by society if there ever was one. I leave references to spurn further reading.

October 6th

20, 000 people in Central Park gather to protest war over Iraq.

<www.nyc.indymedia.org>. "Not In Our Name"—"and let it not be said the citizens of the West did not resist." But the questions remains of the name. Where the proper name speaks, and even collectively and where the "our" voices the force of a multiplicity, there runs the risk of the effacement and erasure of the name as the State response. Not In Our Name—"Fine," says the State; "Then you are no longer With Us, but Against Us: You No Longer Have a Name." Indeed, will we see this development in positions where the debate over nomenclature, over who can claim to speak—people or State— precipitates the overt manifestation of State power over its own people, what Virilio calls "endocolonization." (see *Speed and Politics*).

"I have such a horror that this is going to go on and on," said Mabel Dudeney, 76, a survivor of the 1940-41 Battle of Britain in which much of London was destroyed by nightly German bombing. "Russia is going to go into Georgia. China is going to attack Taiwan. Israel and the Palestinians are going to continue fighting. War settles nothing." This source said investigators questioned him extensively, and Wednesday night he confessed to making up the story.

1993: The Gulf War

"The 'reality' of 'actuality' - however individual, irreducible, stubborn, painful or tragic it may be - only reaches us through fictional devices. [The al Qaeda terrorist network has reorganized and "intends to strike us here and overseas," CIA Director George Tenet told a congressional committee.] The only way to analyse it is through a work of resistance, of vigilant counter-interpretation, etc. Hegel was right to tell the philosophers of his time to read the newspapers. [Pollution control officer Richard Anderson shot and killed two colleagues before turning the gun on himself Tuesday after getting a letter of discipline]. Today, the same duty requires us to find out how news is made, and by whom: the daily papers, the weeklies, and the TV news as well. We need to insist on looking at them from the other end: that of the press agencies as well as that of the tele-

prompter. And we should never forget what this entails: whenever a journalist or a politician appears to be speaking to us directly, in our homes, and looking us straight in the eye, he or she is actually reading, from a screen, at the dictation of a 'prompter', and reading a text which was produced elsewhere, on a different occasion, possibly by other people, or by a whole network of nameless writers and editors. [His unflinching message yesterday: The violent shooting deaths had nothing—repeat, nothing—to do with the government's controversial program of downsizing and massive job cuts.]" – Jacques Derrida.

(What Derrida invokes at the end is that resistance is not the only instance of the multiple. Capital remains the most deterritorializing force on Earth and in Empire. This is why Deleuze and Guattari say that "it is always *on* the most deterritorialized element that reterritorialization takes place"—*A Thousand Plateaus*).

The Doctrine of the Final Zero

"It's a little like Nietzsche said, Deleuze concludes, an arrow is shot forth in space, so a period or a collectivity shoots an arrow, and eventually it falls, so literary creation passes through its periods of desert." (Gilles Deleuze, Interview with Claire Parnet). Like Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow...* Today, our Schwarzkommando is the White Man. The Doctrine of the Final Zero was effective enough to convince the White Man that he too had to do it, it seemed so cool. However, the big joke was that the Schwarzkommando were joking the entire time... (and the Pentagon has authorized the use of Army surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft in the hunt for the killer).

& There's Just Nowhere to Stay

...while, at the same time, in BC, derelict buildings rot in our downtown cores while the homeless suffer on the streets...and now that "they" (*They* aren't real people, real citizens, right? I mean they have no homes) have taken a unilateral—if not ethical, justified, and *necessary*—decision to occupy these buildings (Hell, not so much to *occupy* as to *have a place to call home*), the Government's move, backed by a complicit and often malicious police force, is to arrest those without homes, steal and destroy their only belongings—donated blankets—and cart them off to the Courts for daring to find a home...would we approve of this anywhere else? "Kosovo refugees without a home violently flushed from empty building." (And of course those violent Government shootings had nothing to do with layoffs—how could it? We all got the tax break, right? I mean, aren't *you* happy now? We'll find a reason to explain the violence—maybe call in a psychoanalyst or two, it was all a bad mother in the end, but never will we make that connection that *gee, maybe this layoff-thing effects peoples lives, huh...*).

Until We Get Our Shit Together!