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The vote was lost by numbers, by people who voted _against change, _against questioning, _against local and global responsibility, _against social contracts and compacts, _against the future, for an inverted version of the past past referred to as 'the future'- it is the eternal-now. And what is now? Complete horror, chaos, and dysfunction. And people voted for this? No. They voted _against having to recognize this.

—human being on the US Senate race, nettime 11.05.02.

UBC Profs Named in Witch-Hunt: The Right Says "Justice=Money"

In the National Post: "Christian 'exposed to contempt': Lawsuit accuses UBC professors of discrimination based on religion," Oct. 24th, 2002. UBC English Graduate student Cynthia Maughan has launched a lawsuit against UBC, naming Dr.'s Lorraine Weir, Judy Segal, Susanna Egan, and Anne Scott, claiming discrimination based on religious grounds. But the prosecution reads like a conspiracy theory: that Dr. Weir penalized her for not attending a Sunday seminar when there was no participation mark; that Ms. Maughan was penalized for maintaining silence in the course despite Dr. Weir's approval; that Dr. Weir 'launched a campaign to discredit Ms. Maughan,' and that the comments on her course papers are indicative of this discrimination, and that the UBC Senate decision—for Ms. Maughan campaigned to have her mark changed from 73% to 79%, and lost—also reflects this discrimination, insofar as the English Department "mounted an irrelevant and unseemly attack upon [her] character for mental and emotional stability and for religious tolerance." Perhaps this amounts to a rap on the knuckles for what is a strenuous case with a mature student who obviously desires "justice." Yet, given the circumstances, the difficulty of the course material, and Maughan's position—it should be noted that Maughan is 42, so there is a significant dynamics at stake here, as anyone who has been in graduate school with mature students can attest—the UBC Senate decision is fair and is no call for a lawsuit that is apparently headed into the 18 million dollar range. It would seem that this particular Christian—and I only say this as it plays a significant role in the prosecution's case—has reversed the policy of turning the other cheek. It would seem that Maughan feels that justice can be bought with money. I don't say this in spite: I say it to point out that the teachings of Christ, of love, have quickly given way, in this situation, to the prosecution lawyer's promise of the big bucks in compensation. (We might ask: so who has succumbed to temptation here?) And *who* is this lawyer? A rather prominent prosecutor for the Religious Right: Gerald Chipeur is listed on conservativeforum.org, whose motto is "Anyone who can bring the Conservative Party together can bring the country together." Chipeur also writes for the Christian Legal Fellowship, where in one article he defends Trinity Western's "pledge of fidelity" which was seen as an attack on homosexuality. It should be noted that Chipeur styles himself as a "human rights" lawyer. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say a Fiscal-

Christian Rights lawyer, insofar as Christianity can be levered through fiscal justice and that religion precedes fundamental human—and beyond human—rights. A gloating report on the lawsuit can be found in the Midwest Conservative Journal, where the article also claims "ethnic" discrimination as well as religious, and targets Dr. Weir for her testimony in the Robin Sharpe pornography case. So, students, if you are wondering why your tuition fees jump next year, it might be because Chipeur has claimed for "*damages at an amount equal to two percent of U.B.C.'s annual budget.*" Yes, indeed, Chipeur is out to teach us a lesson, just like back in the good ol' days when they burned witches.

Supporting the Woodward's Squatters

At a recent conference of art-intellectual types, the problematic of representation once again paralysed action. Stuck in asking "But if I support the Squatters, am I not speaking for them, and therefore robbing them of their voice?" (and so on) the Left lapses into negligent entropy. But it's not only a question of representation when it comes to the necessity of action. We must DO *WITH*. Get down to Woodward's: you're one body *with* the others. A squatter *and* intellectual (if there is even a difference). The Squatters are doing, with their bodies, by placing them on the line, what all the Big Unions failed to do: breaking the Liberal government. And this breaking is called for. The police "confiscation" of the Squatter's belongings is *theft*, and a particularly low form of stealing at that: it's despicable, trashing the few possessions of the truly poor. Let there be no question about it: now is the time to add your body to the others in front of Woodward's. Give so others can live.

The US: Need I say More?

As US arrogance increases on the international stage (where the U.S. has assumed all key roles save that of the janitor), the apologetic nature of those opposed to War increases. I've noticed this in personal emails from American friends. I stopped to think how it would feel to live in a society where the majority seem so intent on not only the destruction of the other, of the phantasmatic possibilities of a TV War, of the blood-lust carnage and videogame violence on CNN, but of a desire to destroy *one's self*, a passion for abolition, for self-destruction, to bring on the apocalypse, to not decrease, but through aggression, *increase terror, increase paranoia*, seal it all in, the borders of the U.S., not like a masochist attempting to reduce the body, but like a paranoid master sealing in all flows. A friend of mine who holds dual US-Canadian citizenship was born in Syria. His anger is evident: he attacks all of us in class, all of our readings, which are generally radical and positive. Despite his intellectual rigour, being on the receiving end of such much hatred—he is in the US constantly as he lives there part-time—has turned him against all of the West. Such is what the US desires, with all its heart... The final Western Showdown, as Baudrillard sketches out so finely in *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place*. Yet, as Baudrillard demonstrates, it failed to happen last time—the sneaky Arabs refused to play the Western Cowboy game. But this time?

Until I can have hope for humanity!