

Dark Times

Volume 11, Issue 3

March 2010

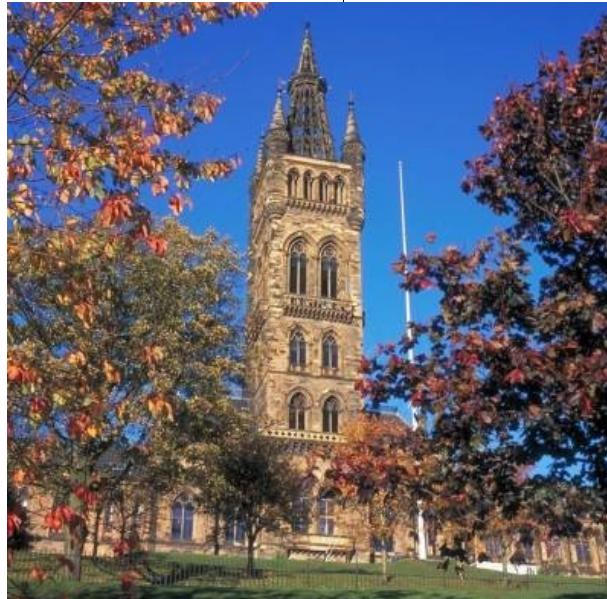
University plagued

Dark Times staff writers

Chaos erupted at Glasgow University this month after an unexplained death in a laboratory was attributed to an outbreak of one of the infectious diseases which had been contained within the facility. Since the body was discovered around a week ago, the lab was sealed and thirteen others who had worked in the laboratory were placed into strict quarantine.

Meanwhile, the original victim was named as Chris Underwood, a PHD student who had been researching the effects of ebola and potential treatments. His body was tested for the presence of ebola, together with the other diseases and viruses which were present in the building. Coroners were shocked when every test returned positive, showing that Underwood had been infected by a combination of nine different pathogens, including ebola, HIV, smallpox and a strain of pneumonic plague.

Shortly after Underwood's death, his girlfriend, Harriet Johnstone, was taken ill and brought in to the Royal Infirmary, in what



police suspected initially to be a tragic accidental exposure to the same agents which had caused her partner's death. However, subsequent examination of Underwood's notes, and of materials found in his home have painted an alternative picture.

It appears Underwood was deeply suspicious of his partner's activities and believed her to be having an affair with a number of other men. In a bout of insane jealousy, Underwood set out to end both their lives by infecting himself with whatever agents were available in the laboratory. While his death was eventually attributed to ebola, most of the other infections he

cultivated could have proved ultimately fatal. With the cause of death taking some days to discover after Miss Johnstone was admitted to hospital, doctors are not optimistic about her chances.

In the meantime, Glasgow University has been closed completely for a week and placed

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under quarantine while the extent of the outbreak is established, and while questions are asked of the security measures which could have prevented this from occurring. Police are also trying to establish anyone who may have come into contact with Mr Underwood or Miss Johnstone before their respective hospitalisations.

Underworld in flames

Dark Times Staff Writers

Following the death this month of two prominent members of opposing Glaswegian crime syndicates, a spate of violent confrontations has erupted in the territories bordering their respective fields of influence, the north and parts of the west being controlled by the one family, the other being the east end of the city governed by the other.

Late on the 23rd of February, Sammy, a well known drug dealer whose turf was centred on Byres Road in Glasgow's West end, was assassinated in a competent, brutal attack with a bladed weapon, believed to be a sword. Sammy was killed by a single thrust which severed his carotid artery, and police are believed to be searching for leads on a small number of capable individuals known to be present in Glasgow's underworld.

Sammy's body was not discovered immediately, rather the body was dumped under a railway bridge north of Cambuslang, deep within the territory of the rival family. Sammy's body was uncovered by two joggers early the following morning, his body being identified that afternoon and the story making the headlines that evening.

Three days later, the retaliation which had been expected by many materialised as a senior enforcer for the east end family was shot in a supermarket car-park, twice in the chest, then once in the head with a 9mm pistol. The gunman escaped into a waiting van which was discovered abandoned later the same day in the north of the city.

On the 1st of March, in a public council run Library, a member of the public discovered the pistol which had been stashed among the bookshelves there. Since these stories broke, gunfire and violent attacks with knives and baseball bats have broken out between junior members of both families in Springburn and Easterhouse.

Society matters

Dr Robert Douglas Hume

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, Robert here again...and what an eventful month it has been! Prince Rothschild has certainly stirred up Glasgow, dividing most of the city into four Baronies, essentially granting domain to the four Barons. In the north, of course, Viscount Aldworth, who has been establishing himself at the heart of politics in Glasgow since his recent return.,

In the West, William Chauncey, the only remaining Primogen and a clanmate, an obvious choice to give the territory which includes Hillhead, the Tremere's longstanding feeding grounds. And finally, the south to Julius Montgomery, the ever ambitious Ventrule, hardly a surprise to see him receive one of the quarters, although it must be questioned what influence he exerted to receive this, or if he poses some threat to the Prince. I say this, because it seems that in making four senior Kindred Barons, the Prince has found a most interesting way to set these four against one another, a great distraction and a savvy political manoeuvre.

Finally, the East Barony has yet to be decided. A masterstroke on the part of Prince Rothschild, a grand diversion, as many of the city's residents turn their attentions to the possibility of holding a standing equivalent to some of the oldest and most powerful Kindred in the city. The fight for the East may have already begun, it will be interesting to see the tactics deployed to succeed. Favourite to become the Baron if the East, if she

chooses, must be Mary Jezabelle, possibly the longest standing resident of the city and a powerful Malkavian, the woman to beat it seems!

And it seems tensions are already brewing between the current Barons, with a public spat at Elysium between Montgomery and Chauncey, it seems the battle to attract the Kindred of Glasgow to make their havens and operate their influences within the Baron's territories has begun. I for one look forward to observing this situation in the two months until the East is decided and the political landscape of Glasgow is determined...at least for a little while!

Meanwhile, Cruithni remains a hot topic of conversation, his ever-expanding new domain and the potential to make contact with him, a slim chance it still seems. Perhaps I should seek to meet Cruithni myself, an exclusive interview so to speak! Unfortunately, this still seems like a dangerous option, perhaps when things have calmed down a little, Prince Cruithni might let us in on his plans for the future.

Anyway, that's me for another month, I'll let you all get back to your evening, but remember, I'm always looking to hear about new stories and rumours from Glasgow, so do feel free to get in touch, send me what you have, the media always needs fuel!

Good evening one and all,

Robert

Trouble at Faslane

Dark Times staff writers

Faslane has had its share of disturbances in the years it has played host to the Trident submarine program and a significant portion of the UK's nuclear armament. Guards have been discovered drunk on duty or have been shot at with air rifles, while peace protestors have breached perimeter fences on numerous occasions, chaining themselves to buildings, or even the submarines

themselves and circulating pictures on the internet.

However, this month saw potentially the most significant breach of security at the base since its opening, as a high security storehouse was targeted, and components of the Trident missile systems appear to have been taken. This suggests a far greater degree of organisation and intent than peace protestors have previously displayed; the crime demonstrated the ability to flaunt severe security measures, high tech locking mechanisms and knowledge of the layout and contents of the base's internal set up.

It has been claimed that the alleged theft is an excuse to lock up protestors on the basis of anti terror legislation and to remove the ongoing nuisance they create to Faslane and the surrounding area. However, while the Navy have been quick to cooperate with police in apprehending the protestors, they have denied that anything was obtained during the break in, merely stating that the attempt poses a national security threat and the culprits must be found.

Urban Development

Dark Times staff writers

In a substantial investment into the ongoing program of urban development and regeneration in Glasgow's East End, 2 large blocks of tenement flats are being demolished to make way for a suite of high grade office complexes. The tenement blocks are on Dunragit Street and Dreghorn Street in the Denniston area of Glasgow. The residents of the blocks have been relocated within the local area and planning permission has been granted, subject to the developer making significant improvements to the local infrastructure.

The project was announced to press at Glasgow City Council's offices, with a number of very pleased councillors shaking hands with the developers for the benefit of the gathered media. Demolition works have now begun on this

project, which is expected to complete around February 2011.

Monthly Business Update

Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni

One of the questions I get asked most often is about advertising. Is it really worth the money? It is very easy to hop on the first newspaper deal that comes your way without first determining if newspapers are best for your product or service. The advice I give involves first getting to know the people who already buy from you. Who are they? What is their average income? Where do they live? Once you understand who your customers are and, more importantly, what they read and watch and subscribe to you can aim your efforts in that direction.

Newspapers have a short lead time and have extensive market coverage but every advert has competition from both other adverts and the news stories. Radio is relatively inexpensive and gives fast results but the message is easily forgotten. TV has a fast impact and reaches across the country but is very expensive. Lastly, direct mail is easy to target and is actually the most persuasive medium but is also expensive and prone to the junk mail problem.

In conclusion, the only way to really be sure what is best for your business is to test and try in a small scale and only heavily invest in methods which you have proved work for you.

Government News

Tightening the Repossession Rules – Mortgage lenders have to inform local authorities when repossession action is started against residents in their area so that councils can step in with advice and help for those most in need, under new court rules that came into force on 1st October to provide further protection for those struggling with mortgage arrears.

Bankruptcy Procedure Reform Cancelled – Proposals for individuals to be able to submit bankruptcy applications online or through post rather than in a court has been denied. This

proposal would have made it easier for people overwhelmed by out of control debts to seek relief through bankruptcy. Research shows that it can currently take up to 3 months between first contacting the court and the making of the bankruptcy order.

HM Revenue & Customs

HMRC are seeking views from businesses on draft legislation on deliberate wrongdoing by tax agents. The draft legislation reflects the proposals in the consultation document “Working with Tax Agents: The Next Stage” published on 9 December 2009.

More information can be found on the HMRC website: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/>

Market Update

Commodities	
Brent Crude Oil Futures \$/barrel	76.85 Up 1.36
Forex Gold Index \$/oz	1112.5 Up 19.74
White Sugar Futures \$/m tonne	669 Up 8.86
Feed Wheat Futures euros/m tonne	95 Up 1.5

Stock Market	
London: FTSE 100	5354.52 Up 76.3
Frankfurt: Dax	5598.46 Up 66.13
Paris: Cac 40	3708.8 Up 68.03
New York: Dow Jones	10325.26 Up 4.3

By Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni
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Great Britain By Night

Margery Houndsorth-Stone, Clan Toreador, Ancilla, Harpy of London

My dear readers. The month of February has been surprisingly interesting. Before I speak about the tumultuous occurrences in Glasgow I shall look much closer to home. After some most interesting and convoluted politicking behind closed doors it appears that Nathan Kyte, the Malkavian who recently torpored Damian Thomson in a sanctioned duel, has apparently been declared a destabilizing influence on London. He now has

the option to either depart the domain, or subject himself to the honour of receiving some of Queen Anne's very own vitae. It will be interesting to see what he chooses, exile or bondage to the crown.

Next I simply have to write about the masterstroke of Prince Rothschild of Glasgow, a man who clearly has studied his history books. He has split the core of his domain into four roughly similar sized sectors and offered domain over these sectors to his closest rivals.

At first this might appear to be a sign of weakness, the need to appease his rivals with vast stretches of land, but this is far from the truth. In actual fact each of the three kindred who have been given one of those sectors have paid dearly for their privilege, owing substantial favors and influence to Prince Rothschild. That in itself means that Prince Rothschild holds enough debt to almost certainly be out of reach of his rivals. Secondly, none of the land grants have been made with any guarantee over the length of ownership. At a whim Prince Rothschild can simply reclaim the land given and those foolishly enough to have taken him up on his offer are left with nothing. Next we have the simple fact that the barons are suddenly all each other's rivals and reports of heated arguments in Elysia are just the tip of that iceberg.

Lastly, and most devastatingly he has managed to vastly reduce the former standing of the holders of

these parts of his domain. Elder Charles Augustus Aldworth, the former prince of the city has now been reduced to be a landlord and been given duties to safeguard the city's Elysia. Ancilla Chauncey, the former only Primogen and seen by some as his de facto Seneshal, has been reduced to assistant Scourge, assistant to the childe of the notorious anarchist Peter Fraser. The only one who could, in theory at least, chalk up this office as a promotion is the ancilla Julius Montgomery, who has held no office previously.

The fourth sector, Glasgow's crime ridden east end, is still without a chaperon and it appears Prince Rothschild will name one in May.

Overall the phrase, *divide et impera* and the four republics of Macedonia 168BC onwards come to mind. We wonder how Prince Rothschild has managed to get everyone to buy into this scheme.

Let it be known that François de Bourbon, of Glasgow, elder of the Camarilla is indebted to Julius Montgomery, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that John Houblon, of London, elder of the Camarilla is indebted to Marcus Leavenholme of London, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Hercule Bastian Rothschild, Prince of Glasgow, has repaid his debt to Parson Orr, Sheriff of London, elder of the Camarilla.

**Dark Times is accepting submissions.
Send in writing to the address below:**

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