

Dark Times

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Hung jury

Dark Times staff writers

David Clayson, the disgraced councillor for Govan and Ibrox, has hanged himself in his home. This follows a period of months where he was constantly in the newspapers as his trial for corruption, fraud and tax evasion was first seemingly unwinnable, only for evidence to be thrown out by the court, and Clayson to be released on bail just a week before his suicide.

Police revealed that Clayson was found in his study, with the door locked from the inside. He had left a suicide note, in which he apologised for his conduct and for the shame it had brought his family, claiming that this was the only way he could allow them to make a new start.

Police forced their way into the locked room early on the afternoon of the 28th of May, after Mrs Clayson became increasingly distressed at her husband's lack of reply to her calls to him through the door. The police medical examiner pronounced Clayson dead at the scene.

Sources close to Clayson reported that although the publicity following his arrest and trial had affected him deeply, he had been

showing signs of putting this behind him and planning means of resurrecting his political career. This therefore came as a shock, and Clayson's recent good mood is suspected to have covered a deeper depression which had

gripped him. Clayson's death may just spare Glasgow's procurator fiscal from the embarrassment of having the highest profile trial for years collapse around his ears.



I'm Spark-atus

Dark Times staff writers

The police hunt for the Hobo with a Petrol Bomb ran into difficulties this month, as dozens of individuals across the city embarked in copycat incidents, inspired by the masked tattered avenger.

Each incident has involved single people drawing attention to themselves, before inflicting serious harm upon their would-be attackers. Some have achieved this by having friends

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with baseball bats waiting around a corner, others by setting their assailants alight.

A number of the vigilantes have been arrested, but the similarity of their tactics has caused police difficulties in establishing if they have apprehended the culprit of the original attacks. This has not been helped by the individuals who often lay claim to being the Hobo. Some commentators have claimed that this hardly matters – the message has taken root among the ordinary people of this city.

The message is simple, and can be summarised in a quote from the 1976 film “Network”: “I’m mad as hell, and I’m not going to take this anymore!” Certainly it seems that ordinary citizens have taken it upon themselves to fight back against the rising tide of fear and oppression which has been opposed upon them.

The entire situation has already caught fire numerous times across Glasgow, quite literally in many places. Now it remains to be seen if that fire will catch and spread, if the cleansing fire can be maintained or will be stamped out, and if there is anything left of the city after it has run its course.

What the Dark Times needs

Jonathan-Alexander Turpy

Dear Dark Times staff writers,

Please consider my response to your article “The Dark Times needs you!” where last month, you requested help from a citizen of Glasgow, of which I have considered myself to be for a few years. If this piece is accepted for entry in your newspaper, this would be my first article for the Dark Times, a step I take hesitantly I must add.

In the spirit of your request, I should like to think that I can aid you as I have aided other Camarilla members in the past. However, if I'm honest, I am not normally quite so benevolent to strangers, particularly malicious ones who wish to spread propaganda in a planned attempt to disrupt, divide and decimate my home and community.

However, what did inspire me to write this piece was a line I couldn't help but notice you chose to include.

After all, I used the same line in my introduction to my poem “Slugs” last October in this very paper, a line that was first coined by an esteemed member of my clan, a line that alluded that you may be willing to accept help from a domain you have spent the last 3 years besmirching. If this is the case, perhaps you would be willing to accept that you allowed your quill to be dipped in spite.

After all, it was you, who allowed your opinions to come before your integrity; be it in the uninformed assumptions behind who was responsible for Glasgow-O and its downfall (*Dark Times March 2011*); the baseless speculation that somehow the richest clans may have caused that Icelandic volcano to erupt (*Dark Times May 2010*); the taking of sides on which Prince would be most suitable for Glasgow whilst not being known, accepted residents in the domain (*throughout numerous Dark Times back issues*); and the incredible assertion that of all kindred, the Malkavian Justicar, I repeat, Justicar, was acting against the will of the Camarilla of all things! (*Dark Times November 2008, January 2009*) The fact that the unnamed writers cannot be ridiculed, applauded or even considered for such speculative comment in the guise of 'news' is an exercise in redundancy.

In light of this, your reasoning behind a request for information from Glasgow at all is questionable. After reading your commentary for 3 years now, it is my firm belief that you, the Dark times staff writers, do not 'need' anyone within the Glasgow domain considering how you treated members of this court so caustically in the past with your axe-to-grind approach to journalism. No, I would assert that if the Dark Times needs anything at all, it needs to start helping itself.

The Dark Times *needs* to become more objective like a broadsheet rather than subjective like a tabloid. An opinion is for the reader to form, not the writer. I believe you would do well to leave the opinions to the readership and kindred members who write for the paper rather than falling into the traps you were guilty of in the past by attributing your biased stories to the nameless, faceless “Dark Times staff writers”.

What the Dark Times *needs* is more dignitaries who are willing to give their opinion rather than hearing

from the same voice from London all the time. Meanwhile, in the exciting city I reside in, we have no primary source giving their opinions because you set the Dark Times against the Prince of the domain – meaning that any Glaswegian writer who wishes to grace your paper would be easily accused of speaking out against their protector just by admitting to writing for your paper.

More to the point, I'd love to hear more from the likes of Mr Edward Williams, Mr Farr and Lady Eleanour Plunkett and the other relevant specialists across the UK. After all, London is not the only talking point, as events past and present have shown.

The Dark times *needs* accountability, whether it's from you as the unnamed "Dark Times staff writers" giving personality to be judged, or guest writers who do not cower behind pseudonyms like "The Voice in the Night" and other anonymous submissions so that we, the readership, know that the kindred who present their views are proud of what they say, for better or for worse. You may think me critical of Margery Houndsworth-Stone from the above paragraph but I should like to applaud her for being a reliable and brave voice, unfaltering throughout a fog of shifty, anonymous columnists. Come what may, I should hope that she continues to report for a great many years to come.

Last month, you wrote that you pay your writers, though I can't help but feel that you owe something more rudimentary than currency to your readership. No, as a readers, we require a good newspaper - a solid newspaper, one without trite accusations and false libel presented as fact, we require an accountable newspaper with a variety of columnists who are not afraid to be named so that their esteem may be judged within our society. We require a plurality of opinion from a society unafraid to share their opinions.

If you do choose to print this letter, I ask only that you seriously consider my feedback as one of your readership in the hope that you accept your past errors of judgement for a more objective, inclusive newspaper.

Yours faithfully,

Jonathan-Alexander Turpy

Editor's reply

Editor-in-chief

Mister Turpy,
let me in the first instance thank and congratulate you for taking the time and courage to openly reply to our request for aid. You have raised a whole host of valid points and I will try and answer them as best as I can.

One of the fundamental issues you appear to have with our publication is the lack of transparency and the single point of view we seem to have. If the last decade in Glasgow has taught me anything then it is that the kindred in Glasgow are often rash and impulsive and were I to include my name and location in the publication I doubt it would still exist now. Someone would have taken umbrage with one article or another and taken the necessary steps to silence us, permanently. It is for that reason we decided to hide behind drop boxes and staff writer descriptions.

We have though, without fail, published anything and everything the kindred of Glasgow or further afield have send in publish and we feel that by giving everyone who wants a voice in this publication the chance to do just that we invite the balanced approached and the different perspectives. Some of those submissions were named and we have published those names along with the submission. Other article lack a name or use a pseudonym and in those cases we have printed those. If the esteemed kindred you have named wish their opinions to be included in this publication then we would welcome the additions.

We also believe that any kindred will read our publication and carefully work out for themselves what, if anything, they wish to do with the information included. It is often a personal view that at times is not trying to be objective, but rather the individual opinion of the writer in question. It may sometimes even be factually incorrect as we simply have not got the resources to confirm every piece of information submitted, nor is that something we are trying to do. What we do try and do is look at the goings on within the city of Glasgow, and report of those that might be of interest to our readers. We want to provide a means to get anyone's opinion distributed and discussed around the Elysia of Glasgow and in our own way to give the freedom promised by the Elysia, a safe haven for discussion and negotiation, to the kindred of Glasgow. Just like you will need to

weigh how much stock you place in a rumour heard at one such Elysium you also need to weigh how much stock you place in anything you read in our publication.

I would wager that as someone who has read our publication over the last three years you will most likely find at least a couple of things that have interested you, maybe to the point that you either got involved in the situation or based decisions on the information you obtained from us. Now, for you personally, has the information given to you of benefit or would you have been better off if the Dark Times hadn't existed? Now weigh this against the lack of accountability, the apparent and hidden bias and then approach the same question? I admit that when someone tries to censor our publication, that I will not hold them in a favorable light. I also admit that if our prince is linked to the destruction of another half a dozen elders, we will certainly write about it and likely be critical. If on the other hand our prince creates stability and prosperity for the kindred of the city we will also mention that.

In the end if you have come to the conclusion your existence would be improved by not reading it, then don't read it. If you believe that the problem is that our paper is good but not good enough, then use your voice and make it a better paper. The Dark Times exist ultimately for the kindred of Glasgow and we will make sure that any voice that wants to be heard, is heard. If you wish to hear from other dignitaries, then convince them to submit their articles to us.

I hope this addresses the main areas of your concern and if you have anything else you wish to get published then we will publish it.

Editor-in-chief

Police cover up the Ripper

Dark Times staff writers

The rise of vigilante violence has provided Strathclyde Police with sufficient smoke to obscure and cover up a new serial killer in Glasgow. The victims of the killer are female prostitutes from the most depraved areas of greater Glasgow. Each victim's throat was cut prior to further abdominal mutilations. Of the four murders so far committed there has been a removal of internal organs from two of the victims leading to proposals that their killer possesses

anatomical or surgical knowledge.

A number of interesting sidelines need to be explored here. Firstly we have the police cover up. The similarities in victims, modus operandi (including timeline of attacks) all point to a single killer and in fact the police are treating these cases as related. To the press though the only information given out was that the woman were stabbed during the recent wave of violence. Sources close to the police have in fact voiced the theory that some vigilantes are widening their targets from violent criminals to other forms of reprobates which, whilst no doubt true, is an active attempt to mislead the press attention.

Next we have to look at the larger political situation and the time-line. 1891, the Whitechapel murderer finally disappears from the streets of London until the very same week where Queen Anne loses control over London to John Houblon. Then for the best part of two and half months more murders occur in the same style and the same vicinity of the original murders. The area though, which was once a slum is now a respectable London borough. Then the attacks in London stop and almost immediately start-up in Glasgow, where at the same time Anne lost London her protégée gained control over the city. Was releasing this demented individual one of Anne's attempts to destabilize London and Houblon's rule? Has he now turned the attack against his opponents Scottish stronghold? Or maybe it is all coincidence and a few vigilantes had the same idea of murdering and mutilating street walkers in rough neighbourhoods?

We should also look at the sophistication in avoiding detection of these attacks. Assuming, for the moment, that this individual is indeed someone who was removed from the streets of London one hundred and thirty years ago he either has been extremely lucky to choose murder sites outside of the prevailing camera network and not leaving any trace evidence behind or his methods have matured to include a detailed understanding of modern forensics and police procedures and how to effectively evade them.

The Wake interrupted

Dark Times staff writers

The American rock band, The Wake, had to cancel its Glasgow and Edinburgh shows of their current UK

tour after leader singer Troy Payne was stabbed outside of the club Anima in Hamilton on Saturday the 28th of May. The band had earlier that night done a warm up gig in the Rock Garden pub in Motherwell under the name The Eulogy and was enjoying themselves at the after party in Anima. Outside the club, whilst smoking, Troy refused to sign a fan's T-shirt and in the resulting brawl Troy was stabbed in the chest. He was taken to Wishaw General Hospital where his collapsed lung was re-inflated. The band have consequently cancelled the remainder of their UK tour.

Great Britain By Night

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

Dear Faithful Readers,

London is slowly settling down under its new leadership. While there are still many many things to address distinct improvement can be felt. Negotiations of the new accords have begun and for the duration of those talks a unofficial de-facto seize fire has been declared. Just as the press picked up on the grizzly spate of murders the Metropolitan Police made a high profile arrest and subsequently the murders have stopped.

Not everything though is running that smoothly, large amounts of influence over the mortal affairs have suddenly become available and people are figuratively falling over one another to try and claim it. This almost free for all has allowed many rivals to try and settle old scores by usurping their influences and thus has everyone trying to protect what they already hold often without declaring what is theirs lest it become a target of their rivals. I expect this will probably take a couple of years to settle down.

Looking towards the north-east of the domain I have received an outline of our border. The domain of Norfolk under Prince Carter Branch extend from coast half way between King's Lynn and Grimsby to the coast half way between Ipswich and Southend-on-Sea. Its not a straight line between those points, more a semi circle pointing inland which includes Peterborough and Cambridge. In discussions with our new Seneshal, elder Colman Rashleigh, I have had it confirmed that London accepts those borders.

From inside the domain of Norfolk we hear that most of the former domain granted to Prince Aldworth of Glasgow was donated to the national trust. The old country manor and grounds will be made available to tourists and only a small residence inside the main building has been given to the remaining Aldworth family. I wonder how Prince Aldworth will react to this insult.

Let it be known that Eleanor Plunkett, of Edinburgh, influential elder of the Camarilla is indebted to Laurance Redwood, Sheriff of Edinburgh, elder of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that John Houblon, Prince of London, elder of the Camarilla has repaid his debts to Reginald Albertson, seneshal of Aberdeen, elder of the Camarilla and to Edward Bulwer-Lytton, seneshal of Norfolk, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Carter Branch, Prince of Norfolk, elder of the Camarilla is indebted to David Stone, of York, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let is be known that Jason Petterson, of London, ancilla of the Camarilla is indebted to Ian Smith, of York, ancilla of the Camarilla.

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

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