

Dark Times

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Montgomery Murdered

Editor-in-Chief

The Dark Times has learned that Julius Montgomery, Ancilla of Clan Ventrue in Glasgow, has been slain two days ago. A brutal attack against Montgomery took place in the early hours of the evening of 30th January, which resulted in a dozen properties burning to the ground.



Witnesses reported hearing at least one gunshot, and seeing Montgomery struck down. However, he continued moving, and managed to drag himself back within the building he had just emerged from, only for that building to be engulfed in a conflagration moments later.

A dark car was seen speeding from the area shortly after, although so far no one has been able to identify the occupants. Police were only able to gain entry to the building which had served as Montgomery's haven after the fire had eventually cooled, but preliminary investigations have not shown any evidence of human remains. Police believe at this time that any remains were consumed by the blaze.

Given that Montgomery was a strong ally of Prince Aldworth's, no doubt the Prince will turn all his attentions to identifying the killer and ensuring that justice is done. It is not presently clear who would have the incentive to kill Montgomery, however since arriving in Glasgow he made a number of

enemies, and gained Prestation over a wide variety of Kindred. A brief examination of past Dark Times showed that Julius held debts over Duke Francois deBourbon, Tom Cullen, Alexander Haddow and Dr Robert Douglas Hume, and these are likely to be the tip of the iceberg.

In the spirit of aiding Glasgow's Prince to bring Montgomery's killer or killers to justice, the Dark Times will arrange for an untraceable reward to be issued to anyone who wishes to provide information anonymously. Please contact us at the usual address.

New Blood

Dark Times Staff Writer (Thomas)

NovaCorpus Inc, the international pharmaceuticals company which had previously set its sights on Glasgow, has in recent months established itself in the domain of Edinburgh, opening up a major research and development facility. However, it appears its ambitions towards the west of Scotland

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have not vanished, as it renews its efforts to acquire a foothold in the region.

Glasgow University has over the years produced some of the finest geneticists and scientific researchers in the world, and the city has built up a vast store of knowledge and talent. NovaCorpus has previously attempted to tap into that well by establishing its new headquarters in the City Chambers buildings, and then seeking to find other premises.

Now, with both those avenues having been closed to the firm, it has begun to buy up stakes in smaller companies in a variety of related industries. The reason for its interest in Glasgow in preference to any other city has yet to be seen; it is possible that it is a purely financial motive, but years of suspicion in Scotland's biggest city make that seem an unlikely prospect.

Meldrum in the Mortuary

Dark Times Staff Writer (Duncan)

Graeme Meldrum, the police officer whose Serious Crime Unit has proven so effective at identifying and apprehending the varied threats to Glasgow's mortal population, has been killed this month, mere days before Julius Montgomery's death. Meldrum, who was recently credited with stopping the Glasgow Ripper, was outside a police station in Govan when he was shot by a high calibre rifle. His fellow officers rushed to his aid, but Meldrum was dead before his body hit the ground.

Police investigations have so far uncovered that Meldrum was shot from a considerable distance, by a gunman of substantial talent. Police eventually traced the shot's origin to a building, with a clear line of sight on the police station. Whoever killed Meldrum was well prepared, and had planned exactly where and when to take the shot.

By the time Strathclyde were able to isolate the

location of the sniper, it was far too late. Examining the camera footage of the region showed only a dark car making its way away from the scene, but the license plates were false, and police have little hope of identifying the gunman via this method. Current investigations are focused around the very substantial reward offered for information leading to the killer's arrest.

Meldrum had been a serious thorn in the side of Kindred in Glasgow, always one step ahead and always possessing more information about those who live behind the Masquerade than any normal man should have. His unit had proved uniquely resistant to being infiltrated by anyone sent by Kindred and there are few in the city who will mourn him.

However, Meldrum did bring an end to various problems which had threatened not only mortals, but also Kindred and even the Masquerade itself. The Ripper was only the most recent of these, and it must be questioned if the streets will be more or less safe for our kind now that Meldrum is gone.

Manchester Mayhem

Dark Times Staff Writer (Duncan)

In an event reminiscent of those which have struck Glasgow in recent years, a Manchester orphanage was the site of a slaughter just a few days ago. All the children who were housed in the building were killed and the building burned down after.

Initially, Greater Manchester Police believed that the fire had been an accident, an unfortunate tragedy which had overtaken the building. However, upon examination of the wreckage, evidence of the murder of all 53 of the children present began to emerge.

The children were all killed in a small room, where even the fire could not eliminate the levels of blood

which had soaked into the floor. None of the staff were found within the room though, while each of the children had been torn apart, many of them dismembered. Those bones which survived the blaze were scored by multiple blades.

Eventually, police did find traces of the adult carers who had been resident at the orphanage. All four of them were found in the remains of the burned out building, trapped under a beam which had fallen atop them. Scattered around them were all manner of bladed weapons, stained with blood.

Police are continuing to search the area for leads, but given that the incident took place in the early hours of the morning, in a large detached building, for now it is expected that the investigation will conclude that this was the handiwork of the carers, who were then caught in the blaze they had set before they could make their escape. Speculation has centred around what they were doing to all be caught in one spot in a burning building, but answers are not forthcoming and every detail which emerges paints a more horrifying picture of that fateful night.

Cannibal Run

Dark Times Staff Writer (Duncan)

A third Cannibal Murder struck Glasgow this month, with yet another family torn apart by the brutal group responsible. This time, the attack took place in a row of quiet little cottages, on the corner of Menock Road and Overwood Drive, in Kings Park, Glasgow. The scene was uncovered more swiftly than the previous times, as the victims were an active family with close ties in the community, and the killers chose a Thursday night (19th January) to carry out their attack. Within a day their absence was noted, and on the second a neighbour let themselves into the house with a spare key, only to be confronted with the horrifying scene within.

The culprits had lingered for a shorter time over

this massacre, perhaps recognising the need for urgency, or perhaps growing more accustomed and experienced with each murder. Certainly they had managed to commit all the same atrocities as the previous occasions; the blood used to daub symbols on the walls was still dripping when their neighbour entered.

Once again, the evidence being given out by Strathclyde Police is strictly limited, and no one is willing to speculate on how many of these murders may take place before the culprit can be found. As yet there have been no patterns established, and Meldrum's violent death this month will no doubt hamper the investigation's progress.

The sinister nature of the attacks is worrying though, and suggests something far beyond the ken of ordinary mortals. Whether that is supernatural or simply psychotic though, remains to be seen. Certainly Prince Aldworth will want to address the issue before it spirals out of control though, and begins to threaten the Masquerade, fragile as it is in Glasgow.

Harpy Hour

Editor-in-Chief

For the first time in years, Margery Houndsworth-Stone has failed to submit any article to the Dark Times. When asked about this, she did not offer any comment, and we have been unable to uncover any reason for her silence. Therefore, in place of her regular piece, we have decided to bring a summary of British Camarilla politics, as discussed mostly by the Harpies of its Courts.

Alistair Farr this month met with William Chauncey, Seneschal of Glasgow, who informed him that the debt he held over Colman Rashleigh, Seneschal of London, had now been repaid in full. At the same time, Chauncey talked of the spat between himself and Margery Houndsworth-Stone, which had been simmering for some months. He

told Farr that Margery represented the worst of Clan Toreador, overstepping their bounds and believing that they controlled the politics, without recognising where the true power lay and what their place in the structure is. Margery has remained silent on this point also, and there is a great deal of speculation as to the reason for her reticence.

“Thank you Glasgow for sending us your reject Brujah once you are done with them. It’s getting so I can’t move for the smell of engine oil and petty crime. Of course, Carter likes having lots of Brujah in his menagerie – I suppose *somebody* has to do all the heavy lifting. It would’ve been nice if they’d actually been useful at keeping Cruthni out of Carlisle. It would also have been nice if certain people had put their money where their mouth was when it came down to promised aid... but that’s all water under the bridge, isn’t it? Who are we to

hold a grudge?” – Lucretia Reflection, Malkavian Harpy of Manchester and Liverpool.

Annes Jacques, Toreador Harpy of York made the following pronouncement public – His Grace, the Duke of York, has tasked his Scourge, Alan Gibbons, to ensure that Theobald Alexander will not find refuge within the domain of York. All Kindred in the area are advised to be watchful.

And finally... “Let it be known throughout the land, by order of his Highness, Prince Carter Branch, from this day forth, no Malkavian shall be permitted to enter the domain of Norfolk, upon pain of Final Death. Other Kindred may petition for entry as they see fit.” – Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Malkavian Seneschal of Norfolk.

Dark Times is accepting submissions.
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