

DARK TIMES

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MANCHESTER MADNESS

Manchester made the news this week, with a series of riots hitting it, shocking residents and police alike. It was thought that last summer's disturbances, which swept across much of England, had fizzled out leaving an uneasy peace in their place.

For a time, it seemed the environment was still volatile and it would only take a spark to reignite the conflict. But that was a long time past now, and most of Britain has been settled since – other than the usual state of warfare in Glasgow.

This month though saw a flare up of class based violence with wealthy shops targeted by protestors, who tore through the city centre. Shops windows were smashed, many of the owners who tried to defend their property were assaulted and three of them died. Millions of pounds of goods were taken or destroyed, ranging from high value electricals to soft drinks and confectionary; showing that these attacks were not purely for monetary gain.

Reporters on the ground were able to question some of those who took part, with their faces concealed with scarves and hoods. Most of the participants seemed unable to properly articulate the reasons



A riot policeman in Manchester

for their actions, much as in the case of the summer riots last year. This time though even the most crude commentary on the socioeconomic divide was drowned out by the bloodthirsty impulses of the rioters.

No doubt this turmoil will die down quickly, but if not, Manchester could always look to Glasgow for advice on how to deal with long term violence in their city.

nent of the ideals which hold that faction...more or less...together. He has shown a talent for disruption and for, at times, pushing the Convention of Thorns to its limits.

He is sufficiently well established that even Princes cannot consider him to be a mere nuisance, and it is rumoured that a number of Elders have fallen foul where

BOON TRADING:

- *Minor Boon over Cameron Swift traded by Carter Branch to the Duke of York*
- *Minor Boon owed by Eve Harrington-Mitford to Edward Bulwer-Lytton has now been repaid*
- *Minor Boon owed by Alexander Jones to Edward Bulwer-Lytton has now been repaid*
- *Minor Boon over William Chauncey has been traded by Augustus Trenchard to Simon Haile*

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FRASER'S FROLICS

Fresh developments this month in relation to the Belfast domain, as the head of the Anarch council there took some time to visit two domains in England. While an Anarch attending Camarilla Court is hardly noteworthy in itself, the particulars of these visits are somewhat remarkable.

Peter Fraser is an infamous Kindred, having been a long term Anarch and propo-

FRASER'S FROLICS CONT...



Caption describing picture or graphic.

they set themselves against Fraser or the faction which he has headed up in their city. Now that he has an entire city behind him, there are questions about how he will seek to use this newfound strength.

Judging by his visit to Manchester, he was content to speak about his experiences, focusing on the younger members of the Court, and on more or less amicable terms with more senior people. But then Prince Carter has always been pretty tolerant of the Anarchs — many of those moving to Belfast had previously stayed in his domain.

The visit to Severn was the more startling

though. An insular, stuffy, traditional and dangerous domain, it is as far from an Anarch recruiting ground as you could get, except perhaps for York. So why then did Peter Fraser devote his time to speaking to whom-ever would hear him out. And this was an unexpected number.

Overall, a most interesting series of events. What will next month hold in store?

TIME - DR ROBERT DOUGLAS HUME

"TIME IS NO LONGER THE SAND IN THE HOURGLASS"

To the mortal man, time is a limitation. It is the duration of a life. It brings the story to a close, when a man must judge his life. And by which measure does he judge? Some may look to their contribution to society, and ask if they made the world a better place. Others may end their life surrounded by their family, and know that they are fulfilled in this way. An altruistic life, a faithful life, a spiritual life or an adventurous life; each holds a path with some destination.

We who have left behind mortality though, time no longer holds the same meaning. It is no longer the sand in the hourglass, for the sand is no longer finite. Yet it is still of importance. Now it becomes our commodity, the currency by which we may trade. We deal in favours, favours become requests for services, and services are calls upon our time. And how do we judge the value of our time?

Once we no longer have a moment at which to judge our lives though, where does our purpose lie? Why do we choose to associate with one another? We cannot be happier together, that much is clear. For most of us, there is always a motive behind our actions. The political game is played, the world turns, and we all aim to rise over the heads

of our opponents.

And if we reach our goal? Then perhaps there is a higher prize to aim for. And there is always the challenge of defending what has already been attained. No sooner has power been obtained, than someone else wishes to take it from us. One cannot stay still in this game; there is no rest, once it has begun, until an end is had — one way or another.

There are a few, a very few, who choose not to engage in the game. Who, recognising that happiness cannot be a lasting achievement for our kind, seek a deeper fulfilment, a serenity which is a whispered dream for many. Some claim to have reached it, others that it is impossible. There are always some willing to make the attempt though.

And perhaps they are the wise ones. Because they seek something permanent, in a world where there are no ends but the Final Death. Happiness fades, power crumbles, maybe at the end of a long path, there is hope for a destination for us all. And until that day, use your time wisely, for it is valuable.



The hiss of sand, the tick of the clock

RANTINGS - ANONYMOUS

Ahh, life is short, sweet and cruel. We fight over everything. Coin, resources and, ah yes, even power to name a few. Even after our death this careless legacy continues. It's a shame though. We are people who have been granted the power of immortality but we still live brutally short lives. Why you ask? This is because no matter how much we age, how many conflicts we live through we are still fundamentally stuck in our ways. Greed and the want for what others have still plagues us. This game of politics bores me and wreaks havoc on our inner stability and our self control. Some slide down the path of humanity acting as any other human would do, but I say that the path to humanity doesn't lie in trying to act like a well-

moralled human but ascend even that. Forgive others for mistakes they have made whilst reprimanding their actions so that they do not do it again.

Keep a firm grip on your subjects without being tyrannical but learn to ease the leash that binds them to you. Then you won't have to commit evil deeds and others may respond better to tasks you may ask of them instead of cowering and plotting your demise.

But this is all the ranting of a madman. Pay attention if you wish and good may come of it.



On a soapbox

GLASGOW IN APRIL 2012 - SIMON HAILE

Before coming to Glasgow, listening to some of the rather outlandish tales, it would have been difficult for me to describe its attraction to anyone of standing. After all if you already have a name and standing what would there be to gain, bar a little sport maybe. You really have to spend a few months here, immersed in its depths before you see the glimpses. Sure as I write this clan Gangrel are sharpening their claws to drive what is commonly believed to be werewolves out of the domain. A scant few days prior the newest member of the Justicar, accompanied by one of his archons, has taken a tour of a selection of Glasgow's Elysia.

It is in those contrasts that the beauty of Glasgow lies. Everywhere you look you see it. At court we have anarchs threaten elders and get physically disarmed, we have neonates snubbing their betters, knowingly or unknowingly, and we have members of the society fraternising with Giovanni. At the same time though we have delicate political manoeuvres, we have those who adhere to the rules of etiquette and those who read between the lines. While it would be easy to be distracted by the failures who have found in Glasgow a brief refuge before their inevitable fade into obscurity or destruction and you might miss those who have the po-

tential to rise out of the sea of nameless neonates and to achieve great things. The success for our excellency's plans for Glasgow rely on his ability to attract and build on more of the latter and discourage and sweep away the former.

Beyond the Justicar, what really caught my eye in these last few weeks are the contrasts in understanding, or lack thereof, of the traditions of our society. It appears many neonate and the occasional ancilla believe that if they have mastered the wording of the main six they have done their part, without ever questioning what those words mean or how all the other traditions and customs adhered to should affect them. Taking a few simple examples:

The tradition of destruction seems fairly simple. Assuming one is neither the eldest nor has gained his particular permission one could read it as "Thou shall not destroy another of the blood". That though is misleading. What one really should see it as is, "Thou shall not undertake any actions which will result in the destruction of another of the blood". Such as sending your ghouls to burn their house down, making their address available to a hunter, sending some bailiffs to their haven to discover a corpse or

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Be careful what you
agree to

GLASGOW IN APRIL 2012 CONT...



The danger to the puppeteer

“PRESTATION; A SOCIETY MEMBER’S HONOUR AND THE POWER OF SOMEONE’S WORD GIVEN ON A MATTER.”



The doors which Prestation can open for you

murdering a mortal pawn in a fashion that brings deadly retribution to another of the blood. Intent is completely irrelevant. If your actions have brought about the destruction of another of the society you have broken the tradition. The only way you can to any degree insulate yourself from it is of course if the deed is done by another of member of the society, after all, they should have known better. This though is not always a complete protection. Those who deliberately have brought about the unchaining of another's inner daemon as well as those who have forced another's hand through prestation have in the past been punished for deeds performed by others of the society.

This leads me to prestation, a society member's honour and the power of someone's word given on a matter. Prestation is one of the fundamental principals our society operates upon. It is the grease without which the great machine of the Camarilla would grind to a halt. One would presume that with something so important all sires would take their time to educate their childer but at least some of those resident in Glasgow do not appear to understand the fundamentals. It would require more than the room I have here to cover all the basics and so I start with a little tale about the nature of prestation.

A few centuries ago in Cambridge a group of Brujah regularly met to discuss philosophy, current affairs and their plans to bring about a more enlightened age. A young Brujah philosopher, lets call him Mister Manning heard about this group and travelled to Cambridge in an attempt to gain access to this group. The ancillae and elders in the group though were not about to share their wisdom with this new arrival and so his attempts failed. After some time without success Manning was approached by a Toreador ancilla, Ruben, who had witnessed his failures. Ruben offered Manning the key required to a successful petition, for a favour in kind in the future, of course. With this knowledge Manning managed to get

accepted into the group. Meanwhile Ruben used this favour to pay off a similar debt to a Nosferatu, Sonja incurred a few years prior. Sonja had long since wished access to the information of the council and hence used her boon over Manning to have him provide her with detailed notes on what was said at the council. Manning might not have liked to betray the trust he had just earned, but he was honour-bound to repay his debt.

This leads us to some key questions of prestation. What can you be asked to do? Under which circumstances can you refuse someone who holds a debt over you? What can you do in a dispute? What would happen if you failed to deliver on your word or debt? All good questions and none of them can be answered in only one or two sentences. On basic principal you can be asked for anything that is in line with the original debt incurred. Note that how large the debt is measured by the standards of the ones accepting the aide, not by the standards of one giving the aid. So having your rivals feeding grounds rescinded might be a trivial or minor thing for a prince to do it would likely be a major debt of the ancilla who asked for it. Unsurprisingly that makes a minor debt over the seneschal worth more than a minor debt owed by a regular ancilla.

If someone make quite frankly an outrageous, inappropriate demand then you can publicly refuse the demand and explain to the inner circle of the domain why the demand was preposterous. If they side with you, the debt might well be cancelled leaving you in excellent standing and the one attempting to force you will lose face. This though is a risky move, as should the inner circle side with your creditor, you will lose face, you'll likely need to fulfil the service anyway or worse and the debt might still not be cancelled. If you are in any doubt on the matter, pay up and afterwards inform others that your creditor asked for more than his debt's worth. Anyone who gets a reputation for asking for more than their fair share will sooner rather than later find that others will avoid them in their trades. Even the suspi-

GLASGOW IN APRIL 2012 CONT...

cion that someone is failing to honour their debts has a hugely detrimental effect on them. Their drop in standing will be instantaneous and severe. No one wants to be owed by someone known not to pay their dues. In future people will likely not deal with them, they will not want to be associated with them and so they find themselves ostracised and isolated.

Lastly there is the matter of respect. If you owe someone you owe them a certain amount of respect. If the debt is minor all that is required is likely for you to be cordial to them, even if they are usually your lesser. If the debt is significant than you should go further. You should not be seen to be disa-

greeing with them, you should not openly support their rivals, in a domain where some matters are decided by vote you should not be seen to be voting against them. While you should be attentive to see whether opportunity presents itself to repay them you should not be seen to engineer these circumstances. Whatever happens you should in no way be associated with harm to them or worse their destruction. Should it be suspected that you attempted to escape your debt by orchestrating their demise you will soon discover that your destruction through a blood hunt is not the worst thing that can happen to a kindred, not by a long shot.



Glasgow's Kingpin?

A MESSAGE FROM JONATHAN-ALEXANDER TURPY

To whom it may concern,

One finds oneself overhearing whispers regarding the minefield that is the Glasgow field of organised crime. As the kingpin who organised the culling of the Daniels and the routing of the Lyons, you may already know that I am something of an authority in said field. Should you wish to contact me regarding the aforementioned matters, I can avail myself on the following telephone: 077XXXXXXX. I dearly enjoy gift-giving.

Yours,

Jonathan-Alexander Turpy

"THE KINGPIN
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HARPY HOUR

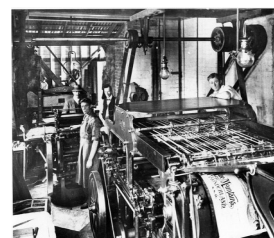
Well, ladies and gentlemen, first it seems I have an apology to make this month.

There was a bit of trouble with the printers last month, a few of the articles were cut short. Hopefully it was still an enjoyable edition though. To summarise what you may have missed, Mary Jezabelle wants us to stay safe and sexy, Simon Haile wants you to know that Levi Tius is a terrible terrible person, and we all await to see who will want to travel to the newly recognised Anarch Belfast. We'll make full copies of the paper

available over the month, so you can add a complete copy to your collection.

~

Edward Williams took some time to comment upon the latest social scandal in Glasgow: "It is a shame to see a young Kindred in difficulty so soon after he begins the game. This Levi Tius will struggle to make a name for himself with the word of an Elder set against him. And yet...one must wonder why an Elder of Simon Haile's standing



New printers - let's
hope they make a good
job

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The Dark Times is a publication for the benefits of members of the Camarilla only and is made available at the monthly court held by the Prince of Glasgow.

The newsletter should only be made available to other Kindred, and all care should be taken to ensure that it cannot breach the Masquerade.

The Dark Times accepts submissions, and any Kindred should forward their contribution to the address to the left. We look forward to your efforts.

Yours,

Editor in Chief of the Dark Times

DARK TIMES - BRINGING LIGHT TO
THE SHADOWS

HARPY HOUR CONT...

chose to deal with a Kindred who had not yet even been formally recognised into the Camarilla. Certainly Glasgow seems to breed the strangest of alliances; and perhaps that is Mr Tius' saviour. Perhaps he will find an opportunity to restore his name, or to earn Elder Haile's forgiveness."

~

Margery Houndsworth-Stone was heard to comment on mortal political affairs and the strings which govern them: "Congratulations to the Scottish Parliament on the increased powers we have granted you. Of course, we know that the rest of Scotland had nothing to do with it but I'm sure Edinburgh will let you play with their toys."

~

An interesting explanation of some prestation recently granted: "York is pleased to welcome Eve Harrington-Mitford who will be opening a new art gallery in our historic city." Anne Jacques, Harpy of York

And Finally – our frequent Malkavian segment of the Dark Times, bringing entertainment, alarm and observational humour to you. Once again, Prince Carter Branch is the focus of our story. After selecting all manner of topics to be the focus of his games, this month happened to be Easter. And yes, your mind has already reached the inevitable con-

clusion, one which the more religious Kindred will find truly sacrilegious.

~

It was Edward Bulwer-Lytton who took the place of Jesus in a recreation of the Crucifixion. Authentic to the biblical tale, each of the stigmata was recreated, before the Seneschal of Norfolk was sealed in a stone tomb on Good Friday. In a modern variation, the solid tomb into which Edward was placed was observed from the exterior by all manner of cameras, with detection equipment and time stamps. The tomb itself was observed from the exterior for the full period of the interment and is inspected on camera before the performance begins.

While no doubt it's possible that some form of trickery took place to make it work, the footage is quite convincing, and is available to all Kindred who would like to observe it. All in all, quite a show, and a lot of faith by the Seneschal in his Prince to take part in the display. Then again, since he was missing when the rock was rolled aside, perhaps there was never any risk in the first place. I invite the reader to observe the footage, and make up their own mind.

Best Regards,

Editor in Chief



A monthly summary of
British Camarilla news,
politics, gossip and rumour,
straight from the Harpy's
mouth.