

Dark Times

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Grave revelations

Dark Times staff writers

Calls are being made for tighter controls to be placed upon who is able to take care of children after police yesterday released their report into the death of a man believed to have abducted and murdered eight children.

James Smith, 29 of Bearsden, was well known in the area and had acted as a childminder for over a hundred children in eight years. Local residents spoke of his affinity with children and his easy going manner, and were shocked by the revelations relating to the murders.

Police were initially brought to Smith's house after receiving a call from his next door neighbour, who found one of his charges, Nicola Anstruther, 6 years old, crying outside the building. Upon entering, the neighbour was confronted with Smith's body, contorted at the bottom of the staircase.

After questioning Nicola, detectives were able to piece together that Smith made to attack her and she attempted to resist. During the struggle at the top of the stairs, Smith slipped and fell awkwardly, causing the broken neck which

resulted in his death.

While investigating the home, police came upon some patio slabs, which had been lifted and a patch of dirt exposed. Suspicions aroused, police excavated the ground and began to uncover children's bodies in varying stages of decomposition. In total, eight bodies were recovered from beneath the patio. Over the following week, these were identified as children who had gone missing over the preceding five years.

Although Smith had cared for each of the children, and he was questioned at the time,

he was not a prime suspect as he had only been working for two of the children's parents at the time of their disappearance, and none of the children vanished from his care. Police did search his home four years ago as part of those investigations with no result, suggesting that



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the patio may have been installed after this.

The families of the children who were unearthed have expressed their grief and shock, but also relief at finally being able to put their sons and daughters to rest.

Ancient wisdom

History Editor

I kneel amongst the destruction I have wrought.

Around me, the remnants of a city smoulder. This place which reverberated to screams and rending metal so shortly ago has fallen eerily quiet. Only the sound of collapsing masonry breaks the still night. The worst atrocities I have committed in my existence have passed, but the screams haunt me still. They seem to take a life of their own, inhabiting this wasteland. A wilderness that was once a vibrant city.

I did not plan to end here. The glimmers of the future I see have always steered me in the past, sending me away from danger. I have out-thought, out-planned and out-fought every opponent I have ever encountered. Until now.

Not that I did not see this approaching. I did. For a decade, I saw my end. I saw my death a thousand ways. Sword, sun, fire. The means differed, the result the same. So I fought. I laid in ambush. I fled. Never before had I run from conflict. Never have I had to. I have always stood and faced my attackers, usually on my terms – always triumphant.

No matter what I did though, I found myself with the same future. The details changed, the end the same. Like an animal in a net, one which tightened on me inexorably. The day drew closer. Until at last, I saw my death here. Nowhere left to run.

I knew despair. I tasted desperation. And in my anguish, I lost myself. I tore a swathe through this place. I thrashed against the inevitable. Now at last, clarity is returned. The bitterness of resignation. I have found peace. An incongruous peace among the mayhem I have caused.

How ironic. To have such a revelation and no time to share it. Through the far side of madness, lies the valley of serenity. May others find this memory and

know the way.

Text translated from a Phoenician scroll unearthed by archaeologists in the ruins of Carthage, dated 146 BC.

Rumble in the concrete jungle

Dark Times Staff Writers

The gang warfare which has engulfed Glasgow continued this month, with areas of the city all but abandoned by police. In those areas, particularly Govan, violence escalated further, with weapons being carried openly on the streets and brutal running battles taking place without warning.

Police have been unable to mobilise the large forces needed to deal with these incidents quickly enough, and so have been reduced to keeping as many innocents out of the line of fire as possible, and dealing with the aftermath of the conflicts. So far over fifty arrests have been made, with numerous convictions, however this does not appear to have slowed the rate of crime.

Twenty-three people have lost their lives so far, at least a third of those mere bystanders, and Meldrum's team are being called upon to produce greater results in stamping out the root of the recent violence. Some are already beginning to question the efficacy of the unit, with no appreciable results thus far.

Monthly Business Update

Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni

Travel News

Ryanair were trawling for cheap publicity this month when they announced plans to sell standing-only seats on flights for £5. The impractical and unsafe suggestion has as much chance of being put into practice as their previous ideas for a surcharge for overweight passengers or charging for the use of the toilets.

An unexpected side-effect of England being put out the World Cup early was a rush for holidays as a summer on the couch suddenly became less appealing. The 25th June is traditionally the busiest day for airports so passenger numbers are expected to be especially high this summer, with travel agents like

Lastminute.Com reaping the most benefit.

The first Aer Lingus Regional flight from Glasgow Airport to Shannon took to the skies last week. The inaugural service linking the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland was announced only four weeks ago. To mark the inaugural flight, all passengers boarding the flight were treated to complimentary drinks and snacks at the departure gate.

Market Update

Stock Market	
London: FTSE 100	4823.53 Down 364.9
Frankfurt: Dax	5816.2 Down 129.98
Paris: Cac 40	3332.46 Down 182.9
New York: Dow Jones	9686.48 Down 450.15

By Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni
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Society matters

Dr Robert Douglas Hume

Well Ladies and Gentlemen,

I had a treat this month, a visit from one of Glasgow's newer and more colourful residents, Rosina Provenazo-Giovanni, here to answer the questions we all no doubt have for her.

The box seats of the King's Theatre in Edinburgh provided the venue for our interview, a quietly impressive location, but that didn't seem to faze Ms. Provenazo-Giovanni, who insisted I call her Rosina.

Immaculately presented, Rosina was wearing a dark business suit, with a touch of flair in the accompanying red shirt. The consummate businesswoman, the look suits her to the ground, matching her manner perfectly; sharp and efficient, but with a touch of charisma that softens the impression.

From the moment she arrives, she seems completely at her ease. Perhaps that is purely self assurance, perhaps it is the vanfuls of burly Italians chaperoning her car to the meeting. Aside from that slightly unorthodox touch, Rosina could easily pass for a mortal businesswoman, from her attire to the Starbucks

coffee she proceeds to drink during our meet.

After the initial pleasantries, we begin with the obvious opening question; what brings her to Glasgow, to such a turbulent and potentially dangerous location. Her answer provides some insight into the workings of her clan, shadowy Giovanni. It seems the Giovanni have an interest in the operation of Glasgow Airport, and Rosina is to be their representative. This brought us to the topic of the Giovanni's guarantee: they will ensure the safe transport of any passengers to any location. An interesting offer to be sure, and one which I had been previously unaware of. Something to bear in mind!

Of course, transport in potentially dangerous locations meshes neatly with Rosina's own personal interests, Paladin Automobiles, a provider of armoured cars...at a price no doubt! Fascinating though, to begin to have an inkling of just how prevalent the Giovanni's business network may be, even in a location which is not one they are known in.

Our conversation turned then, to the more sensitive topic of the Giovanni, and the dark aspect to their reputation. Immediately I can see this is a subject Rosina is less than comfortable with, the easy smile is a little more strained now. I ask if she is able to elaborate on the truth behind the rumours and tales which circle the Giovanni name like crows. Unfortunately, Rosina felt that the truth would do little to alleviate the mystery surrounding the subject, so for now we shall have to continue to speculate.

Finally, we moved on to Rosina's experience of the UK, and her fluent – if formal – English. Rosina told me that she spent 10 years in Southampton at the airport, which implies some of the more southerly Kindred may have encountered her previously. Prior to that, Rosina worked the large international airport in Naples, so her English speaking credentials are well established!

So, an interview with a vampire...and far from painful. Yet a number of questions which remain unanswered. Does Rosina have any further undeclared interests, do the Giovanni? And where does the truth lie with her clan and their grave reputation. Perhaps more will become clear in time, or perhaps they are mysteries to remain unsolved, but I look forward to the investigation!

Until next month, take care, and do remember to send me your gossip, stories and rumours, along with any suggestions for another interview Glasgow Kindred may like to read!

Robert

Great Britain By Night

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

Hello good readers, the month of June has been pretty much a write off. The short nights never make for a very busy period in the calendar but this June has been worse than most. Here in the capital part of this stagnation is due to Queen Anne's continued absence. By now all manner of rumours have circulated from her having been destroyed by the Tremere, in one story not after she managed to destroy Prince Rothschild of Glasgow, over this being a ruse to lure out her detractors to her being merely bored and frustrated and hence enjoying a long vacation. The word that does most frequently gets mentioned is torpor and if one wanted to look for incidents in which she could have suffered that fate one can find a car bomb which was "prematurely" detonated in an underground car park in Islington or the unexplained structural collapse of a Georgian town house in Notting hill. Whatever the reason for her absence, London at the moment is boring as anything. Even Mister Leavenholme has cancelled his usual annual mid summer nights party.

Even the usually entertaining north has the summer blues, there are no outrageous appointments in Glasgow, no grand shows in Edinburgh and not even

any anarchy purging in Birmingham, maybe they have finally run out of them in the midlands. Elsewhere things seem stable enough. Prince Carter seems to have finally abandoned Carlisle to Cruithni and since then we have heard little about Britain's newest prince.

July is not looking to be much better, the one light on the horizon is the "Elder poker tournament" organised by ancilla David Stone of York. The tournament, which will take place in the Merchant Adventurer's Hall on the weekend of the 24th of July. The buy in is a minor boon, over any elder in the British Isles, even though elders of esteem from outside might on an individual case basis be considered. A single secondary re-buy-in is available for another boon. Depending on number of entrants a series of preliminary games will be arranged with the best 2 from each game going through to the main game. More details are available upon request from David Stone.

Let it be known that Alvaro Vera de Poferrada, of London, elder of the Camarilla is indebted to Donald Bassingthwaite, Primogen of London, elder of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Nathan Kyte, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla has traded his debt over Marcus Leavenholme, of London, ancilla of the Camarilla to William DeMontfort, of Severn, elder of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Alexander Jones, of Birmingham, ancilla of the Camarilla has repaid his debt to Edward Bulwer-Lytton, of Cambridge, ancilla of the Camarilla.

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

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