

DARK TIMES

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GUN CRIME ON THE INCREASE

A recent study into the increasing crime rate in Glasgow has revealed a startling trend. The study carried out by Dr John Higgins, prominent lecturer in the criminology department of Glasgow University – has showed that there is an unparalleled increase in the perpetration of gun crime. Dr Higgins has constructed a model based on police records – past and current and according to him it shows that currently there has been an abnormal spike in gun related crime that is disproportionate to normal predicted behaviour of the model he constructed using data gathered for the last 100 years.

“This just goes to show that we are living in an ever changing and increasingly violent world.” said Dr Higgins. “When I first extrapolated the results and compared them to the current figures related to gun crime I could not believe how disparate they actually were.”

He expressed concern at the lack of police control over the situation – and despite several amnesty days and the amount of weapons handed in to the police it seems that these initiatives are hardly making an impact at all.

Senior Constable McNair of the Strathclyde Police Department said that “I will look into Dr Higgins model – I will assign our experts to look into it and until we can verify that his model is correct and not flawed.”

In an ever increasingly violent society – questions are being asked at the highest level why this should be so. Why are there more guns on the street, what forces are there behind this increase? Surely, the answers could be truly horrific and no doubt, will have a dire and deadly consequence for the people of Glasgow.

ITV REJECTS MERGER MOVE FROM NTL

ITV has rejected a merger proposal from the cable firm NTL and has given details of what NTL was offering.

ITV said there was little strategic logic for it to combine with NTL and the offer materially undervalued ITV.

Satellite broadcaster BSkyB shocked the financial world on Friday by buying a 17.9% stake in ITV for £940m.

NTL's largest shareholder, Sir Richard Branson, attacked the power of Mr Murdoch, the owner of BSkyB, and urged the government to "stand up" to him.

He said Mr Murdoch's media empire meant he had the power to choose the country's Prime Minister and the extent of his ownership meant "we have got rid of democracy in this country".

Earlier he had called on the Office of Fair Trading to intervene and force BSkyB to sell its stake saying it was a "blatant attempt to distort competition."

Oftcom now says it has asked both ITV and BSkyB to comment on whether they think BSkyB's share acquisition represents a change of control in one or more of the

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *News*
- *Sudoku*
- *Justicar List*
- *Lyrics*
- *Film Reviews*
- *Court Review*

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THE MIHO-METER

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has come to my notice that this Court has been lacking an arbiter in matters of style, grace and social finesse, and as Harpy, I have made it my mission to rectify this situation.

Don't us girls love a project?

Anyways, just as one would use a thermometer to measure *what's* hot, I have devised the Miho-meter to measure *who's* hot this month (see what I did there?!). I'll look where you wouldn't glance and say what you daren't think. It'll be fun - for me, anyway....

Rating high on the Miho - meter this month are those Kindred who actually make an effort when they come to Court. Lest we forget, boys and girls, we move in exalted circles and it shows respect for yourself and others to dress the part. Granted, poet's shirts, silk and velvet aren't to everyone's taste: the key is to have your own style, just do it *well*. With that in mind, commendation goes to Lord Aramis Kerr and Mr Remy Orcalys of Clan Tremere and our own Blaze of Clan Toreador. Sweetie, you scrub up great!

Coming in at the opposite end of the scale, however, is the level of, well, tempestuosity at last month's Court. Not since I was intro-

duced to a charming television sereis called "Sunset Beach" have I witnessed such melodrama and tantrum - throwing, all culminating in.... **THE DUEL.**

Now, we ladies do love it when our menfolk get tough, and this one seemed so promising at the outset - brows were furrowed, voices were raised, "honour" was called into question and the flash of true Japanese steel rent the air. Had my heart been beating, I assure you it would have skipped several. Unfortunately, this was where it all went downhill. It was my original intention to ask the Prince, with his expertise in such matters, to rate the combat, but his response at the time just about sums it up: he walked away. Before the finish. As, admittedly, did I.

Congratulations are, I suppose, due to Thomas of Clan Brujah who emerged, um, victorious, but I would suggest we remember the Spartans at Thermopylae: losing with flair is more memorable than a pedestrian victory.

Until next time, darlings

Nothing but love,

Miho

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

licences held by ITV.

The regulator says it would normally aim to decide on whether there had been a change of control within six weeks.

BSkyB has said it had done nothing wrong. Current UK media ownership rules mean the satellite broadcaster is prevented from controlling more than 20% in ITV.

The NTL proposal to merge with ITV, made on 9 November, had been conditional on due diligence, on approval of the ITV Pension Scheme Trustees, and on regulatory clearance.

The board of ITV met on Monday to consider the proposal, which had been "thoroughly analysed" by its advisers.

NTL had offered 105p in cash, and new NTL shares worth 17p, for each ITV share.

But ITV said that after detailed and careful consideration it had unanimously decided to reject the merger.

An ITV statement said: "The board believes that whereas there is obvious appeal to NTL in gaining control of ITV's substantial and successful business, from ITV's perspective there is little, if any, strategic logic for ITV to combine with NTL."

Sir Richard became a 10.5% shareholder in NTL when he sold Virgin Mobile to the firm earlier this year and NTL plans to change its name to Virgin Media early next year.

ITV is the UK's largest commercial broadcaster offering free-to-air services.

But it has been under pressure after being hit by falling ratings and declining advertising revenue. It is also without a chief executive.

Earlier in the year, other private equity groups were reported to be preparing a bid for ITV.

SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT

Lyrics by Corey Heart

I wear my sunglasses at night
 So I can
 So I can
 Watch you weave then breathe your story lines.
 And I wear my sunglasses at night
 So I can
 So I can
 Keep track of the visions in my eyes.
 While she's deceiving me
 It cuts my security.
 Has she got control of me? - I turn to her and say:
 Don't switch the blade on the guy in shades
 Oh no.
 Don't masquerade with the guy in shades
 Oh no
 I can't believe it!
 You got it made with the guy in shades
 Oh no.
 And I wear my sunglasses at night
 So I can
 Forget my name while you collect your claw
 So I can
 And I wear my sunglasses at night
 So I can
 See the light that's right before my eyes.
 So I can

While she's deceiving me it cuts my security

...

Don't switch the blade on the guy in shades
 Oh no.
 Don't masquerade with the guy in shades
 Oh no
 I can't believe it!
 Don't be afraid of the guy in shades
 Oh no
 It can't escape you

'cus you got it made with the guy in shades

Oh no.
 I said: I wear my sunglasses at night.
 I wear my sunglasses at night
 I wear my sunglasses at night.
 I said to you now: I wear my sunglasses at night

I wear my sunglasses at night
 I wear my sunglasses at night.
 I cry to you: I wear my sunglasses at night.
 I wear my sunglasses at night



JUSTICAR LIST

Given the current theme of awards and celebrations, this would be the appropriate time to announce the latest reshuffle of the Camarilla position of Justicar.

Clan Brujah: Dmitra Ilyanova

Clan Gangrel: Geoffrey Leigh

Clan Malkavian: Aleister Crowley

Clan Nosferatu: Madame Cloaca

Clan Toreador: Madame Guil

Clan Tremere: Karl Schrekt

Clan Ventrue: Ulysian Thraces

I'm sure that you will congratulate the newcomers to the Justicar list and join me with commiserations to those who have left.



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DARK TIMES SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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Casino Royale (2006)

Casino Royale introduces James Bond before he holds his license to kill. But Bond is no less dangerous, and with two professional assassinations in quick succession, he is elevated to '00' status. Bond's first 007 mission takes him to Madagascar where he is to spy on a terrorist but not everything goes to plan...

Bond is a name that encapsulates so much. Is it a British icon harking back to the cold war? A globe-trotting outdated misogynist (who happens to be licensed by the British Government to kill people)? I've always thought that if you analyse something too much it'll lose something through the process of analysis. This is why this Bond (our Bond) is the best since early Connery.

Here we see Bond as a man, as an animal and as a killing machine. Make no mistakes, this is the most visceral Bond that one could imagine. Daniel Craig, for all his detractors, is 007 at his finest, most pure.

It's an unusual thing whereby the performance of the leading actor is better than the movie itself. But here it is. We saw it recently with 'The Departed'. This re-invention of Bond has to be one the cinema's biggest gambles. And, my God, it wins by a distance.

Submissions Accepted

Is there something you want to advertise or let everyone know about? If so, then Dark Times is willing to accept *your* submissions, articles and adverts.

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