

SOCIETY MATTERS

Darlings, darlings, darlings, where have you been! I have indeed been rather lax of late with the creative juices, but I'm sure that this instalment will more than make up for it...after all, I'm sure it's the only reason some of you come to Court!

Actually, so saying that, newsworthy gossip is rather thin on the ground these days, despite a considerable gap since my last glittering production. The main item of note was of course a celebration in December to mark the fabulous Rafael de Corazon's appointment to Justicar, long overdue. This was in addition to his Death Day party at the same event. I can hardly believe this was a whole three months ago...oh well.

There not being a January event, everyone presumably being too busy on the drunken rich pickings littering George Square and the surrounding environs, the next time we all suffered one another's company was in February, the first Court of the New Year. Most of this event was actually offsite however, in that jewel of modern Scottish industry, Cumbernauld...or underneath it to be precise. A reasonably sized group of vampires from most persuasions arranged to cleanse the sewers of the Sabbat, who were alleged to have a stronghold there. Once there I of course realised that cleanliness is the better part of valour, and having forgotten to take my marigolds with me, decided to stay up top and guard the entrance in case any of those naughty Sabbat tried to sneak out past the bold adventurers beneath my feet. After much amusement down below, as it were, they met some sort of uber-Mage dressed all in white (how did he manage it?) whereupon the party decided they were ill-equipped to deal with this sort of challenge, so left to return at a later date hopefully more supernaturally charged, or something. This might all seem something of a setback, but a considerable number of Sabbat members were killed in the attack, with no permanent damage to ourselves. The personal highlight of the excursion for me anyway was seeing Lady Lucy coming out of the sewers after wading through goodness knows what...it brought tears to my eyes to see one so noble up to her neck in it, although that could have just been the smell I suppose.

Asides from that not a lot to report. Apparently not one but two Giovanni were at Court, which is worthy of mention, and also congratulations to Robert McCloud, who has been elevated to the Primogen...it seems that clan strength has nothing to do with choice of member, so my attempt to cheer up Clan Tremere about their chances was probably a waste of time...hey ho!

Anyway, I had forgotten how draining writing for the masses can be, so I will hold myself in check until it's time for my next bijou columnette. After all, I wouldn't want to spend myself totally in the first issue of the year...

With Love

Alexander Paul, Clan Toreador

SOUP SEER BACK IN FOLD

After a heretofore unexplained absence The Eyes of Glasgow has returned to the Internet Newsgroups with the following posting:

"Despite the best efforts of those who see nothing but their machines I have returned to tell you what is coming to this City. Beware the one who can fold reality around you, for nothing is as it seems when in his presence. He will come, nothing can stop him, and blood and darkness will herald his return."

HOROSCOPE FOR MONTH

Playful Pisces

Something smells fishy this month, is it time you checked your lover's pockets for receipts that shouldn't be there? Or mayhap someone has been sticking their fins in where they aren't wanted? Anyway, its best to keep a beady eye out, for someone is after something, and that someone is deeply involved with a link to the letter S. Remember though, fish have short memories, so it will happen soon!

Mystic As-Hur

DEAR KINDRED

I would like to thank those who took part in the recent reclamation of the Cumbernauld sewers. As I am sure you all know by now we were able to remove the main bulk of the Sabbat from the sewers with minor casualties and no deaths. As for the other problem I am sure that most would agree that our only option for the moment is to research into their origins before we consider any other plan of attack.

With regards to recent statements that I have heard about the actions of the Brujah being cowardly, I find these remarks disgraceful. The Brujah came to the sewers to deal with the sabbat, they sensibly back away when faced with an unknown opponent.

Lord Valek Oltennia

THE PROTECTORATE

I don't think anyone that was at Valeks hunt will disagree with me when I say that the actions taken by the leaders of the event was ridiculous. Standing at the back and not fighting (or not coming in to the sewer at all) or sending others to the front to get snared in Sabbat traps. Worse than this those that didn't even turn up have started talking about the Brujah being cowards when they didn't have the guts to turn up themselves. But don't worry we can all sleep safe now knowing that we have a sheriff that cant hunt!

GRUESOME STORY

The teenager accused of murdering an elderly widow in Lanarkshire was a vampire-obsessed youth who drank the blood of his victim during a "particularly gruesome killing", a court heard. The 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, denies murdering 90-year-old Mabel Leyshon in her home in Motherwell. Prosecuting, Roger Thomas QC told the Court the heart of the victim had been removed, wrapped in newspaper and placed in a saucepan.

The body of Mrs Leyshon was found on Sunday, 25 November last year at her semi-detached bungalow. She had died from multiple stab wounds and her chest had been "ripped open". Pokers were left at her feet in the shape of a cross, the jury heard. Mr Thomas said DNA in blood found at the scene matched that of the defendant. "This is extremely strong evidence," he said. The chance of another person's DNA matching the sample was one in 73m, he added. It was alleged that he had previously talked to a girl at a party about his desire to become a vampire and to be immortal. He had told her the small village of Wishaw was a "perfect place for vampires".

"The person who entered the house murdered Mrs Leyshon, removed her heart and drank her blood is this defendant," Mr Thomas said. He added the murder had not been a sudden outburst of violence resulting in death - but a brutal and vicious murder that had been planned. "By 24 November, 2001, the defendant had learned quite a lot about vampires, certainly enough to satisfy his two main questions - how do I become a vampire and how do I become immortal?". "He had decided what he had to do - a sacrifice, the murder of another human being was necessary to achieve his ends. "And with his parents away he committed what we submit to you was a planned, deliberate murder to satisfy his own grotesque and selfish ends."

Mr Thomas said the defendant was not mentally unstable, and was responsible for his actions. He told the court the circumstances of the murder were particularly gruesome, and that he would try to ensure the amount of disturbing material placed before the jury would be limited.

A rear patio door window had been broken and when two police officers entered the house and went into the TV room they were confronted by the body of Mrs Leyshon. "It soon became clear that this was not simply the murder of a defenceless old lady who had confronted a burglar," said Mr Thomas.

DAMAGE CONTROL

This section is for scandalous rumours or just blatant character assassination. So take everything you read here with a proverbial pinch of salt.

It is reported that the Prince and several important kindred of the city, were seen at a meeting with Technocracy senior personnel about utilising their high tech CCTV to track the Anarchs within the city, as well as some of the newer kindred.

It has been confirmed that Lady Lucy, of Clan Ventrue has hired a Public Relations company to improve her standing within society, and as such has been recently donating large amounts of money to a children's orphanage.

Apparently Beth, has been having all sorts of prophetic dreams that have been coming true including the death of Rogan and the Sabbat invasion of the sewers.

The Giovanni High Council has decreed that they would like a stable presence in the city, and as such have decided to send along some of the most powerful, readily available kindred to ensure that their interests arent disturbed.

After the *sewer raid*, documents were found by the Nosferatu, that indicate that the large number of antitribu kindred are actually acting as a cover for secret insertions of a fifth column into the city to betray the kindred elders to the sabbat.

It is to be believed that a large amount of money, blood and drugs were recovered from areas in the east end of the city where there is a large amount of gang activity of late, and it seems that the anarchs are battling unknown kindred for this *stash*.

DETAILS

As ever we are always looking for new stories, slander, or downright lies for Dark Times. If you feel like contributing, mail it to james@devlin.net or failing that you can send the story to the Storytelling team and they will probably pass it on, probably though, maybe depending how they feel that day or week or just if they can be bothered. Maybe it's all to do with the Lunar cycle, maybe they only write or pass along articles when its a full moon, or maybe it could be that its only when Jupiter is ascendant in Capricorn. Remember that if the players dont provide anything for Dark Times, there won't be a Dark Times.