

The Moonlight Rambler

The newsletter of la Maison du Sanguinaire, July 2003

Games for August



What: Vampire Cam/Anarch Game



Where: UCR, Sproul Hall room 1340



When: August 9 & 23; 7:00 pm



What: Garou Game



Where: UCR, Sproul Hall room 1340



When: August 16; 1:00 pm

Socials

Current socials are after games at Dennys.

Charities

Currently there are several Charities going on, contact Jason Wallace for details. There is also a National Blood Drive going on.

The People who do the Work

There are many people who put in contributions of time and effort into this chapter. Below is a list of important people and their positions.

- Chapter Coordinator: Mike Brown
- Venue Storyteller: Andrew Hemond

Send comments and submissions to Andrew Hemond (sturmcrow @ hotmail.com)

Guidelines for Submission

For any of you interested in making submissions to the newsletter, check out our simple guidelines below (note unless the article or announcement is truly pointless it has a good chance of being printed):

- Please, we desire that submitted news articles be relatively impartial and factual. Also, the majority of news articles are IC for local players, so whatever you submit may become common IC knowledge. Most news articles will use names of who submitted them, unless you request that we do not use your character's name (an NPC reporter will be named then). So please tell us that you wish to be Anonymous. Note though that any articles showing personal bias will ALWAYS be attributed to the character that submits them.
- IC Announcements are welcome, of any kind, be they personal, clan related, citywide, etc. These will also ALWAYS have your name tacked onto them.
- Ads may be run on request. You will have to pay for them somehow (IC) and we do not guarantee they will be read. We reserve right on where the ads will be placed, hey if you get enough people to make ads we can have an ads page. They must be acceptable (check with Andrew Hemond) and will of course be IC. They can be like classified (help wanted, looking for buyer), propaganda, etc.
- Prose, poetry, fiction, and other works of "art" will also be accepted. There will be a separate section for these. Make your stories believable, we will not to print stories that are written merely to make you look good. Also, we prefer to have the stuff fit into the WOD and the Camarilla storyline (if it's a work of fiction). Toreadors might love this section, but be reminded that Toreadors aren't the only ones that can be creative. Pictures and drawings will not be accepted at this time unless already in gif or jpg format.

Etiquette 101

Each time I gather with the kindred of an area I wonder to myself why oh why their sires did not teach them proper Etiquette. The amount of times I see their poor manners in evidence I can only wince and go my own way. It is much better to avoid these simpletons that seem incapable of grasping relatively simple manners. A few times I have tried to educate them individually but it often fails, perhaps a sign of their limited mental capacities. It may be foolish but perhaps I can educate en masse.

So what is considered bad manners in our society? Well I suppose we should start with the basics and then work our way up. First lesson, asking someone what clan they belong to is rude. One's clan can reveal a lot of information about themselves and therefore why should someone just merrily pass out such information? It is even considered the height of tyranny to demand to know the clan of an entrant into a domain. Acknowledging one's lineage can give power to someone else over you. So why would they do it? For every kindred who spouts off his clan without hesitation there is another kindred quiet in the corner eking out his existence without sharing the slightest tidbit about his blood. When one reveals their clan they also reveal what they can do. And if there is one thing that is important and secretive within this society it is power.

Second lesson, relying on disciplines to do something is vulgar and shows weakness not strength. Why you might ask? Well because it is a sign of a weak mind that overpowers others to force their will and in our society it is the subtle mind and the gentle touch which garners more respect. Sure, one could use potency and the strength of the blood to force others by physical means but you will only be seen as a lout without true skill. A lazy cainite dominates others into doing what he wants a shrewd kindred instead applies a more gentle touch that leaves nary a trace of their presence. Which would you respect more? Some people seem to think they can just leave morality behind once they are kindred but it just doesn't work that way. One can either through grace and wit achieve one's goals or they can attempt to club people into submission, which do you think is accepted by society? Do you go out and beat someone until they do what you want or do you use other means to coerce them?

Well that is all for now, wouldn't want to overload anyone with all these rules by which our society functions. Till next week.

Rafael Sforza

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*The Moonlight Rambler
provides free announcements for
community events that are open
to our exclusive circulation.*

All in the Family

Clan, it is an important part of the Vampire venue. Clan is one of the most basic units for interaction between characters. The problem is that many players have a very mistaken impression about what Clan entails. Many see Clan as some mystic brotherhood, a fraternity of people united in purpose. Bullshit. Clan is the base unit for political interaction and it is the World of Darkness equivalent to one very dysfunctional family.

You hear it all the time, "Kindred meet with your clan and decide your primogen," "We clan X must work to strike at clan Y," "So and so, you better stay out of Clan X's business." I cannot count how many times I have seen such things during a LARP game. They expect that Clan entitles them to support, allies and access to power all because they share a bloodline. When trouble comes they expect a unified front. They become upset when people in the same bloodline works against them. It seems ludicrous to me because it does not match the material that we get this game from.

In reality Clan is more akin to a family than the brotherhood that some people have come to expect, a very dysfunctional family. Imagine a group of kindred all connected, forced to be around the same people for extended periods of time, siblings, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. Ever hear of sibling rivalry? Well most siblings have a limited time together. In vampire you are stuck competing with these same siblings for decades, sometimes hundreds of years. Then again, who would have a very good relationship with their sire? They killed you! Forced you to become a parasite so why would you want to work hand in hand with them? You may not hate them but they

certainly do not make for a good father figure. And you are stuck with them, no way to get away; a constant tug of war between your own desires and what your sire wants. Vampire is a zero-sum game what one person gets you do not and the closest competition would be your own blood.

Now imagine years and years in these dysfunctional relationships. It is hard to then say that Clan is a united group. Why should it be? There exists only a tie of blood and time for each group, which contain many individuals that only want to do their own thing. The world of vampire is one of betrayal, intrigue, backstabbing, and similar. What a great family! Constantly surrounded by people who want the same thing you do and who have a serious control issue (aka The Beast). When taking in the big picture of a society of monsters it is hard to swallow a unified family unit that provides solid support and care. Why would it? Instead you have years upon years of bitter deals, backstabbing and paranoia all built into a nice family that doesn't seem to be going anywhere. Ages pass and you are still stuck with the same siblings who all want access to something there is a limited supply of.

So the next time you see some person trying to push the clan loyalty line you should scoff. You should probably question just why their character is so interested in getting your character to support them and you should really take a closer look at the level of politics that occur all in the family.

Note: Some of this is paraphrased from The Vampire Storyteller's Handbook. For more information check it out.

Andrew Hemond

Only you can prevent Masquerade Breaches

Guten tag Kindred,

It seems the young mensch and frauleins about the surrounding domains and here as well have forgotten one of the most important tenets of the Camarilla, the Tradition called the Masquerade. Breaches are becoming harder to hide due to modern technology, and all of us must realize that to breach the Masquerade is a justifiable call for a blood hunt from the Prince of whatever domain you happen to be in. Fortunately most of our surrounding Princes have been kind enough to understand that with the Sabbat battling us, sometimes our only recourse is disciplines, especially against Tzmisce of the Sabbat in horrid form.

None the less, it is up to all Kindred to help in the defense of the domain if you expect to be protected in it as well, and part of this defense is maintaining the Masquerade. If one Kindred is constantly protecting the Masquerade and not making a fuss about it, believe you me, he will be rewarded either by both various courts and Princes or by fellow Kindred because he is saving their collective un-lives. If one Kindred is breaching the Masquerade and clumsily covering up his tracks by constantly using his mortal pawns amongst say the police or news media, not only will the recurring trend become an obvious sign of Masquerade breaches to the Sabbat's eye (thus enabling them to figure our strengths out), but to hunters, and to the Lupines. (cont pg 6)

Second Missing Hiker Alarms Residents

Another Lake Elsinore man was declared missing this weekend, after traveling into the Ortega Mountains and failing to return. The man, Jeremiah Douglas, was declared missing on Wednesday morning after an exhaustive search. Authorities have warned hikers that it may not be safe to travel into the Ortega Mountains for some time, considering all the disappearances as of late. The Douglas family has posted a reward for any information that leads to their missing husband. Jeremiah Douglas is the second hiker that has disappeared in the Ortega Mountains in as many months.

*Need to find something that is
lost? Looking for that bit of
advice at a crucial time?
Interested in speculating on the
future? I am here to advise you!
Contact Corin whtetyger at
yahoo.com*

Church Blaze Baffles Authorities

Residents of Wildomar awoke Monday morning to find a local church had been burned to the ground during the night. The church, Heaven's Grace, appeared to have been totally destroyed by the fire, leaving only ashes and molten slag as a reminder of its former glory. Authorities have attempted to determine the cause of the fire, but have so far refrained from commenting on the investigation. Local ministers rallied against the destruction of the church, calling it a "horrible blasphemy against good, honest, faithful folks who merely wanted a place to worship." One minister even went so far as to say "This only goes to show why all honest, god-fearing people need to always be on the lookout for the forces of darkness!" All told, some 11 bodies were found in the church, although none have been positively identified. Truly, this has been a terrible tragedy.

Mysterious Suicide Puzzles Residents

A Murietta man was found dead in his home this week, in what police are ruling a suicide. The man, Timothy Carter, lived alone in an isolated part of Murietta. Carter was a former attorney, and staying involved in his community after his retirement. He was also a well-known writer, and enjoyed being involved in his neighborhood a great deal. Police remain baffled in how Carter managed to kill himself, however, as his flayed body was not found near any instruments that could have inflicted such wounds. That, and the fact that Carter apparently managed to tear out his organs and arrange them in a pentagram while remaining conscious has left authorities and residents stumped. A local resident was quoted as saying "I don't understand this... Tim was a really great guy. Somehow I don't think this was a suicide!" while a local police officer was heard to say "This just makes me sick. I don't know what happened, and I don't really want to know!" The only instrument found near Carter was a small gold and silver puzzle-box covered in ornate, unreadable runes, which police say lacked Carter's fingerprints. Police do not believe a puzzle-box was involved in Carter's death, but they have appropriated it as evidence.

Neighborhood Watch Gets Tough

The Tuscany Hills neighborhood watch has had an exciting month! After the outbreak of gang violence in the area several weeks ago, and the numerous dead bodies found in the area (a dead jogger, a man found drained of his blood while walking his dog), Tuscany Hills has become a veritable fortress. Local police are working closely with residents to crack down on even the smallest crimes (there have already been 5 "jaywalking" busts), and a local church group has been especially helpful to residents, lending their time and vigilance to the community. Of particular note to the community were the numerous corpses that have been found in the area that have been without any blood in their system... so far one man and two mountain lions. The fright inspired by these bodies has forced the police to call in expert consultants from Temecula to allay the public's fears. Hopefully time will reveal this mystery, and dispel notions of "chupacabra" running wild.

Fire in the Botanical Garden

broadcasted on the news

Police are baffled by the incident last Saturday in The Botanical Garden at UCR. A building used for posh parties and private gatherings was set fire too during the late night but this is not the worst part. When authorities showed up weapons fire kept them from doing their job. The casualty list has not been released yet as many are still in critical condition in the hospital.

The people involved in the arson were caught on tape but only a couple of them were open for any kind of identification. After detonating a bomb to start the fire the trio then went outside and started a gun battle with the Police that showed up on scene and then assaulted the Firemen who came to do their job. One perpetrator went so far as to ram the firetruck causing thousands of dollars in damage and delaying the firemen from getting to the fire.

Luckily almost no-one working late in the building was harmed and only one room and part of a hallway were damaged by the flames as the buildings fire suppression system engaged. Those responsible are still at large.

Only you can prevent Masquerade Breaches

(continued from page 4)

Protect the Masquerade Cainites, for in it's sanctity we preserve ourselves from our beasts, not having to slay innocent bystanders as I regrettably did, or having to take our influences away from political races or funneling laundered money, and instead devastating time into cleaning up the breach. Our un-lives sad to say are going to be like a game of chess. What piece you are will be up to you, but those of us who get by without using our disciplines as our first line of dealing with other Kindred peacefully or forcefully will demonstrate our value to our superiors. Those of you who choose meeting places can station someone who can use their sight with auspex to check auras. If need be, offer a boon for this service as all of our safety as a whole is more important than a mere boon, for without us prestation and status would have no one to hold them or honor them. Use trained animals, I think the Nosferatu and Gangrel both offer such beasts for a price, but I could be wrong?

I am not saying do not fight the Sabbat with zeal and courage in the face of their monstrous forms and hordes. I say do so wisely, and who knows, you may not even be fatigued from using the gifts of the blood afterwards. For every time the Masquerade is breached, a werewolf, hunter, or member of the Sabbat could be watching. Our time to clean up such a breach and what we do while the breach is occurring can give them insights into who are our leaders, who are the most connected members of our society and so on. This is why the same Kindred should not have to cover up these breaches time and time again. Neonate and up, it is all of our duty. The Inland Empire and surrounding towns are not Hollywood. The "Movie Excuse" won't last forever. Especially when there are no cameras around and no boom mikes and no lights. Yes some of us can play with a mortal's mind, but there are rumors that years later such effects might be undone depending on the skill of the person using "dominate". The more people getting killed violently, the more like the FBI will come into town.

This fellow Kindred is me being polite, and giving you all fair warning. Should Masquerade breaches be flagrant except in conditions of protecting the Masquerade or protecting the Camarilla, I will be reporting to the Primogen who recommended me along with Big Daddy and there will be consequences.

Fire, guns, and abuse of the gifts we hold are not solutions to our problems but the root of them. Work to pull these weeds out from your mindset in how to go about in your un-lives, for the path of violence breeds only more violence, something I would know about. I wish you well, and next we speak, I will rant about Elysium, and my view on that.

Auf weiderschein,

Engel R. Schneider-Diamond

Clan Brujah

Harpy: Riverside

Acknowledged* *Faithful* *Respected* *HonorableBattle Worthy**