

THE Sun

Monday, November 17, 1997

25p

MADE IN SCOTLAND, FOR SCOTLAND

BEAST OF FIFE

THIS is the amazing first video picture of the mystery cat-like creature dubbed The Beast of Fife.

The animal, which has roamed the area for two years, was caught on film by a woman near Cupar.

She handed the tape to police in a bid to prove the beast exists.

The woman, who has not been named, told them it was black and about 4ft in length with a long tail. Last night, locals were warned to

Mystery 'cat' is caught on video

steer clear of the creature. Since it was first spotted by a trucker in 1995, there have been up to 20 sightings by workers out gritting the road, farmers and even police. *Fife*

Continued on Page 13

WIN

Wet Wet Wet 10

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SEE PAGE 11



Invited... Andy with Spice Girls

Spice Girls talk to the only paper they trust

EXCLUSIVE

By ANDY COULSON, Showbiz Editor

THE Spice Girls broke their silence last night about the most traumatic week of their careers — by speaking to the only paper they trust.

They invited The Sun to Rome — and insisted they are not splitting. Emma, Mel B, Mel C, Victoria and Geri spoke openly about sacking manager Simon Fuller.

And they dismissed being booed off stage last week in Barcelona as "funny."

Geri added: "People have been losing their heads. But it's like a tornado — in the centre it's calm."

Full Story — Pages 4 & 5

DAD FINDS HIS ANGEL KNIFE IN FIELD

Sun offers £5,000 reward



Slaughtered... victim Kate Bushell

By CHRIS PHARO and ADAM LEE-POTTER

A HORRIFIED father found the body of his murdered teenage daughter lying in a field, butchered by a maniac.

His nightmare came after he joined 30 police hunting Kate Bushell, 14, who went missing walking a neighbour's dog.

Last night The Sun offered a £5,000 reward and launched a poster campaign to help bring the killer

Continued on Page Two

Family don't deserve this

A NEIGHBOUR of Kate's said last night: "Nobody deserves such a tragedy, but the Bushells are the last family on earth to deserve it."

Edith Chambers — a senior administrator at Kate's school — said: "They are peaceful and peace loving people and never any trouble to their neighbours. Kate was a lovely, pretty girl. She was the sort of girl you seldom saw at school because she was never in any trouble."

Edith, 52, added: "She had settled in at St Thomas' and was doing well. We are all in a state of shock."

Flowers were left at the school gates yesterday, with a poignant note saying "Why?"

School friend Martin Privett, 14, was the last person to see Kate alive.

Martin, who lives a few doors from the Bushells, saw her stroll past his house minutes before the murder.

He said: "I looked out and saw her walk past at about ten to five with the dog."

Dark

"I think it is the way she often goes to get to the lane."

"We have got two dogs and I walk up there all the time as well, but I have never liked it — it is really dark."

"My little sister Melanie walked the dogs on her own there as well and she is only 11. She won't be going there on her own any more."



Flowers... at Kate's school

Dad's angel

Continued from Page One
to justice. Blonde Kate was dragged off an isolated path, stabbed repeatedly and left in a pool of blood. Police fear she was sexually assaulted.

Popular churchgoer Kate left home at 4.30pm on Saturday with a Jack Russell terrier she had agreed to care for while its owners were away.

She had not returned as night fell and parents Jeremy, 44, and Susan, 41, raised the alarm.

A search involving police dogs and helicopters was launched.

Retired council worker Mr Bushell took a police officer down a muddy path popular with dog-walkers 500 yards from his home in Exwick, Exeter, Devon.

As the officer checked one side of the winding track, Mr Bushell looked over a stile and saw Kate lying yards away, covered in blood in the wet undergrowth. The dog, Gemma, was sitting by her.

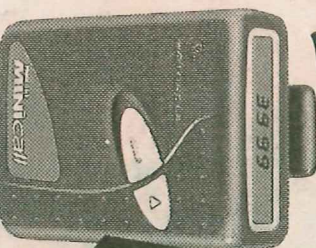
Fellow searchers found the heartbroken dad cradling his daughter's bloodstained body.

Police said music-loving Kate, described as a brilliant pupil, was probably attacked with a knife. She was fully-clothed.

Det Supt Mike Stephens, leading the hunt, said: "We are grateful for The Sun's help. We need to catch this killer soon."

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KATE WAS BEAUTIFUL, BRAINY... SO CARING

Pals' anguish over golden girl who had everything to live for

MURDER victim Kate Bushell was the perfect teenager — popular, caring and talented.

To her parents, she was the lovely blonde daughter who joined them in church and was always ready to lend a hand.

Kate's teachers knew her as a 14-year-old golden girl who excelled at her studies, music and sport — and had set her heart on going to Oxford.

But it was one of Kate's classmates who last night summed up everyone's anguish at the brutal stabbing of their pretty pal. Emma Browne, also 14, sobbed:

By CHRIS PHARO and ADAM LEE-POTTER

"I do not know how anyone could do something like this to Kate. She never harmed anyone in her whole life. I feel so sad. Kate was so brainy and was going to get first-class GCSEs."

"She was very caring and would always help you if you had a problem. She did not like seeing people being down."

Another classmate, Ceri Robbins, 14, wept: "I do not know how I am going to handle this. She was a very good friend."

Ceri's sister Kirsty, 13 — also a pal of Kate — added: "She liked to join in with everything. She was very popular." Kate was a Year

Nine pupil at St Thomas's High School, in Exwick, the respectable, middle-class suburb of Exeter where she lived with parents Jeremy and Susan and brother Tim, 16.

She was a key member of the school orchestra and played the piano, clarinet and saxophone. Kate loved basketball and had recently won a place in the school team.

Staff members were in tears as news of her death was broken to them over the phone.

Head teacher Steve Maddern said: "I have visited the family and they are absolutely devastated by the loss of their daughter."

"I don't think anyone can imagine the horrendous effect a tragedy like this has on a child's parents."

'Mature young lady' in the nicest way'

"The school has lost a talented student. Her friends have lost a wonderful girl but they have lost their much-loved daughter."

Mr Maddern praised Kate as "lively, brilliant and popular — everything you could hope for in a student."

He said: "She was a very mature young lady. In the nicest possible way. She always talked of going to Oxford and I have no doubt she would have done."

"Her mum never needed to tell her to do her homework. In fact, she had nearly finished her weekend homework before she went out on her last walk with a neighbour's dog."

Mr Maddern will hold a special assembly this morning to help Kate's 1,200 schoolmates come to terms with the tragedy.

Home... family live in a neat detached house on a private estate





Brilliant . . . blonde Kate was a perfect pupil and had set her heart on going to Oxford University

our school," he said. "There are 300 students in her year. I don't know yet what I will say to them."

"What can you say? It will be a very distressing day."

"I don't think there is anything anyone could do or say that could make things any better."

"The sight of her empty chair will say it all. We will all miss her so very, very much."

"Her loss will be felt throughout the school and we are making arrangements for counselling to help students and staff."

"We can only hope that the police catch whoever is responsible for this sickening crime as quickly as possible."

Kate's family was being comforted by police yesterday at their modern, three-bedroom detached home.

The house is on a leafy estate favoured by professional couples and academics from Exeter University. By grim coincidence the

Bushells live in Burrator Drive. A street of the same name was home to Lin and Megan Russell, the mum and daughter battered to death in Chillingham, Kent, in July 1996.

Mr Bushell, 44, took early retirement from his job with the local council's education department to work as a charity fund-raiser and missionary. His 41-year-old wife is a child-minder.

'She was practical and loved to help'

The family attend a church group called the Isea Christian Fellowship that meets at a local school.

Mr Bushell plays guitar at the services.

Steve Randall, a close friend and fellow church member, said: "Kate's parents are heartbroken. She is the last girl you would think something like this would happen to."

He said Kate was "bright and intelligent" and a mature member

of the church. Mr Randall said: "She was very practical and liked to help at church events by putting out chairs, helping with the food and washing-up."

"Kate also helped with church fund-raising events for Europe and Chernobyl."

"The church community is in deep shock and it will take some time to get over it. We feel deep shock and pure horror at what has happened."

"The family moved to Exeter about seven years ago and have been committed members of our church for some time. We are praying for Kate and her family."

The Rev John Fairweather, vicar at St Andrew's in Exwick, told of the "shock and horror" parishioners felt at the murder on their doorstep.

He said: "We have remembered the victim and her family in our prayers this morning. I know Jerry Bushell through his work with the

Isea Fellowship. They are a very committed Christian family and our prayers are with them."

"This is a new part of the city and there is very little street crime. We are all hoping this is a one-off incident and that they catch the killer quickly."

"The fact that it is not a violent area makes it seem more appalling. We now have to be very concerned for the youngsters here."

'We worry for safety of all our children'

Neighbours of the grief-stricken family also told how Kate's murder had brought fear to the area.

One said: "I often walk my dog near the spot where she was killed and it has never worried me before."

"It is a lovely spot with views out over the city. There is a school for guide dogs for the blind and you often meet people out working with the dogs. I won't be going up

there on my own any more. It is simply horrifying to think what happened."

The neighbour added: "We often saw Kate playing around here. Her father is a lovely, gentle man."

"He took a load of aid items out to Bosnia recently and we gave him clothing and other stuff."

Resident Mrs Jill Daniel said: "I saw the girl out walking a friend's dog while I was walking my spaniel. This is a very quiet area and everyone is horrified by what has happened."

"The lane where she was killed is very popular with dog walkers."

Another neighbour said: "She was a lovely blonde girl and it is terrible when something like this happens so close to home."

"They are a very nice family and we often say hello to each other or give each other lifts into town when we are passing."

Another local said: "Kate was very popular and used to babysit for some of the neighbours."

"We are all very shocked and parents are worried about the safety of their children."

A spokesman at the Bushells' home said yesterday that the family was "in a state of shock."

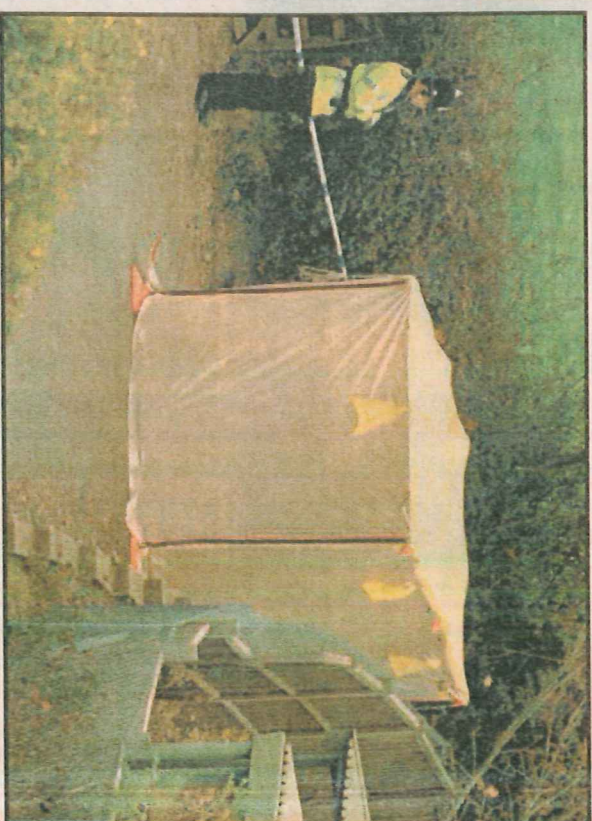
£5,000 REWARD

THE Sun is offering a £5,000 reward to help catch Kate's killer. It will be paid out, at the Editor's discretion, for information leading to a conviction. If you can help, contact the police incident room on 01392 451659, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or our hotline on 0171 782 4105.

A spokesman at the Bushells' home said yesterday that the family was "in a state of shock."

The Sun Says — Page Eight

Hunt . . . police search for clues yesterday at spot where Kate was found



Tragic route . . . Kate's body was found in field 500 yards from her home

