

# IUN

## International Upire News

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**Catalunya (Catalonia)**

*Països Catalans (Catalan Nations)*

## Hostage in 'vampire' attack horror

An attacker acted like a "vampire" holding a woman hostage before subjecting her to a savage sexual assault and biting chunks of flesh from her cheek, ear and nose.

Andrew Wild, 40, had been due to stand trial for the brutal attack at Manchester Crown Court, but pleaded guilty to a catalogue of offences before the hearing began.

Wild, of Walmersley Road, Bury, took the woman, who cannot be named, to Uppermill, near Oldham, on the night of July 9 last year and forced her into a barge on a canal, where he carried out the attack.

Prosecutor Alaric Bassano said Wild appeared as though he was "possessed by evil" and laughed as he assaulted the 38-year-old victim. He said: "Wild took her prisoner for about seven hours, in which time he subjected her to a terrifying ordeal.

"He perpetrated serious sexual assaults against her and unleashed acts of serious physical violence on her."

### Flesh

Mr Bassano continued: "He bit her left cheek and then her right ear and nose. The victim described the defendant as a vampire, laughing as he tore chunks of flesh off her."

She begged to be allowed to die before she managed to break free during a struggle and scrambled out of the barge. She fled and knocked on the door of a house to raise the alarm.

The woman was taken to the Royal Oldham Hospital before being transferred to Tameside General Hospital.

Records showed she had a huge number of injuries including cuts and bruises to her face and body and parts of her cheek, ear and nose were missing, consistent with bites.

Wild pleaded guilty to charges of false imprisonment, sexual assault and grievous bodily harm. He will be sentenced later.

Manchester Evening News, 23 Jun

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## 'Vampire' rapist gets life term

A man who raped and bit off parts of a woman's face after being released early from prison for a previous violent attack, has been jailed for life.

Andrew Wild, 40, acted like a vampire during his victim's seven-hour ordeal on a barge in Uppermill, Manchester's Minshull Street Crown Court heard.

He pleaded guilty to charges of false imprisonment, rape, sexual assault and grievous bodily harm on Thursday.

Wild, of Bury, will not be considered for parole for at least 12 years.

Prosecutor Alaric Bassano said Wild appeared "possessed by evil" and laughed as he assaulted his 38-year-old victim on 9 July last year.

He said the woman described her attacker as a wild dog and a vampire, who laughed as he bit off parts of her ear and nose.

The court heard she needed plastic surgery for serious facial injuries for the bite marks she sustained.

Wild, of Walmersley Road in Bury, carried out the attack two months after being released from jail.

He had served less than half of a five-year jail term for repeatedly stabbing another woman.

Sentencing him on Friday, Judge Roger Thomas QC condemned the "terrible and dreadful attack".

"It is difficult to see at this time when a day will ever come when this man will be safe to release," he said.

Wild refused to leave his cell and appear in the dock at to be sentenced.

The court heard from psychological reports on Wild that he lived a Walter Mitty lifestyle and was prone to fantasy.

On one occasion he made a completely fictitious and detailed statement to police claiming his neighbour had shown him a collection of pistols and a machine gun kept hidden at home.

The statement led armed police to raid the home of Wild's neighbour and arrest him before the truth was uncovered.

BBC News, 23 Jun

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### **'Vampire' rapist was freed early**

A psychopath was freed to strike again after being let out of jail early on condition he wore an electronic tag.

Andrew Wild, 40, had served less than half of a five-year jail term for repeatedly stabbing a woman and holding her hostage in a 19-hour ordeal. He was let out on licence and fitted with an electronic tag to monitor his whereabouts.

Within two months, Wild removed the tag and raped and mutilated another woman after taking her prisoner. She said Wild was like "a wild dog and a vampire", laughing as he attacked her.

She told police: "When I looked in the mirror after the attack I saw a monster and I was paranoid people were staring at my face.

"I have become an emotional wreck and I am worried when out shopping because I fear someone will pull out a knife."

He has now been jailed for life, to serve a minimum 12 years. But campaigners have reacted with fury and urged a reform of the legal system after learning that Wild had been jailed in February 2003 for an attack on the first victim, but served just two years and three months before being released on licence.

1992

Wild also had two previous convictions for causing grievous bodily harm when he bit off part of a previous partner's ear and bit another man in an attack in 1992.

Norman Brennan, of Victims of Crime Trust, said: "The criminal justice system is in chaos. We have reached crisis point.

"This is just a typical example of how the government and judiciary fail to keep the streets safe and the public safe. Speeches by Tony Blair and crown court judges are doing nothing to resolve this.

"People should serve their full sentence, the government is more keen to keep people out of prison than in prison."

Minshull Street Crown Court was told that in the most recent attack, Wild bit off part of his victim's nose and ear, bit her cheek, smashed her head against a wall and threatened to kill her children in a seven-hour ordeal. Officers found Wild covered in blood.

The woman needed plastic surgery and is now terrified of leaving home.

## **Siege**

The attack came after Wild was released early from the five-year sentence for the brutal assault in 2002. In that attack, Wild held his then girlfriend Christine Speed hostage in an armed siege in Failsworth.

He stabbed Miss Speed in the arms, chest and legs, then as armed police tried to coax him out of a house, he brandished a chainsaw and threatened to kill officers.

Armed police eventually stormed the house after Miss Speed managed to escape.

In February 2003, Wild was jailed for five years after pleading guilty to false imprisonment, perverting the course of justice, threatening to destroy property and affray.

But he was released just two years and four months later and befriended the second woman - Miss X - last July.

Alaric Bassano, prosecuting, said Miss X planned to end the friendship after Wild had twice proposed. After a night out she told him she wanted to end their friendship and he grabbed her, saying: "You're not going anywhere."

Wild, of Walmersley Road, Bury, removed his electronic tag and forced the woman to go with him to Uppermill, where he held her hostage on a canal barge and committed the brutal assaults.

Wild pleaded guilty to rape, causing grievous bodily harm with intent, false imprisonment and assault. He was given a life sentence, with no chance of parole until he has served at least 12 years.

Judge Roger Thomas QC said: "It is difficult to say when the day will come when it is safe for this man to be released."

Jon Harris  
Manchester Evening News, 24 Jun

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## **How to Spike a vampire From the comics to the movie trilogy and now TV, the Blade saga continues**

Pasadena, California. - This ain't your father's fearless vampire killer . . . Or even your older brother's. The first question, obviously, is how Spike TV's new series version of Blade, introduced this week as a two-hour TV movie, is going to differ from the movie incarnation.

And the most obvious man to ask just happens to have scripted both - not to mention the franchise-saving megahit, Batman Begins, and the upcoming Flash and Captain America features: Hollywood's go-to guy for the Spandex set, David S. Goyer.

'We've talked about doing a TV show, actually, since the first Blade (movie),' Goyer says. 'We tossed around a couple of different ideas. But I realized that, in order to do it for TV, we had to do something that TV could do better than the features.

'And one of the things that the fans always seemed to be really interested in were all the inner workings and machinations of the vampire world. So we tried to come up with an idea that would allow us to explore that more.

'So what the series is, in a weird way, is kind of like a Wiseguy with vampires, treating the vampires sort of like the ultimate crime family.'

And Blade, then, as the ultimate Untouchable.

'Blade realizes at the beginning of the pilot that he's not making much headway just hacking and slashing,' Goyer explains.

'He realizes that he needs to know more about their inner workings and hierarchy. So we have Jill (Wagner)'s character as a kind of a double agent working for Blade within the vampire community.'

This is not, however, he hastens to add, a kinder or a gentler Blade - although, unlike the snarling, sword-wielding, monster-mashing misanthrope portrayed on the big screen by Wesley Snipes, this new version appears to actually be capable of forming the occasional entire sentence.

'Yeah,' Goyer laughs, 'for the TV show, we had to take him from being monosyllabic to being polysyllabic.'

Good news there for the rapper/actor formerly known as Sticky Fingaz - which is, let's face it, a much cooler handle than 'Kirk Jones.'

Though not nearly as cool as 'Blade.'

For Jones, the coveted and iconic role caps a prolific acting career, from the films *Clockers* and *Dead Presidents*, to episodic work on shows like *CSI: Miami*, *Nash Bridges* and *The Shield*, to a featured role on Steven Bochco's short-lived war drama, *Over There*.

And he is about to make his feature-film writing/directing/producing/composing/starring debut with the Shakespeare-inspired hip-hop musical, *A Day in the Life*.

But right now we're here to talk about Blade. The new Blade. The one that talks.

'I feel that Blade has to be communicative,' says Jones. 'He has to be able to communicate with other characters. You know, he's kind of closed, but he's half human as well, so he's also kind of open.'

Unlike a certain, resolutely non-verbal, big-screen vampire-hunter with a really weird haircut (Jones, as you can see above and on our cover, plays the character bad and bald). 'It's not that I tried to stay away from (the Snipes version), or to jump right into it,' Jones insists. 'What Wesley did is he kind of graduated it, and I guess we're picking up where that left off.'

And that means complete with all of the franchise's over-the-top, explosive, undead ass-kicking.

'It's not going to be *Touched By An Angel*,' Goyer assures us. 'This is a pretty hard-edged show. It's certainly harder-edged than anything that can be on network television, which is also fun. But it's going to be a slow roll - I know a little goes a long way with that.'

Still, it does tend to go a little further on basic cable.

'We did a lot more than I thought we'd be able to do on the pilot,' Goyer allows. 'There's quite a bit of mayhem in the pilot.'

'There's sort of a mayhem quota I think we're going to have to meet, even on an episodic budget. But our approach to it has sort of been . . . some of the episodes are a little lighter on mayhem, and some are a little heavier on mayhem.'

'But usually there's one or two things per episode that you wouldn't normally see on TV.'

Jones, the man who has to execute much of this action, picks up on that note. 'It's definitely carrying over to the series,' he agrees.

'The training is extensive, six hours a day, just gym, martial arts, sword work, everything. But it's easy for me, because I'm an athlete. I love it.'

'The first time I went up on the wire . . . you know, I'm like, four storeys up, and everybody's like, 'Are you okay?' And I'm all, 'Are you kidding me? I love this thing! Let's do it again!'

'You know, it's fun, and it's a challenge as well. But I'm strong, I'm tough and I'm ready for it.'

Still, his movie predecessor, Snipes, at least went into this with some actual practical fighting experience - and a fifth-degree black belt to prove it.

How did Jones prepare for the hard-hitting role?

'I grew up in Brooklyn.'

The two-hour Blade pilot airs Wednesday on Spike TV from 10 p.m. to midnight, running with limited commercial interruption.

Rob Salem  
Toronto Star, 24 Jun

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## **Vampire western**

Jon Favreau will be directing Marvel's Iron Man. Gerard Butler and Steven Strait are set to take a bite out of Screen Gems' post-apocalyptic vampire Western Priest. The two are in negotiations to star, while Andrew Douglas has signed on to direct. Based on a comic book by Min-Woo Hyung, Priest centres on a warrior priest (Butler) who disobeys church law by teaming with a young sheriff (Strait) and a priestess to track down a band of renegade vampires who have kidnapped the priest's niece. Cory Goodman adapted the material for the big screen.

Sony Pictures will distribute the film, which is scheduled to start production Oct 1 in Mexico. Butler, who top-lined The Phantom of the Opera and next stars in Warner Bros. Pictures' 300, recently wrapped Butterfly on a Wheel.

### **Casting Iron**

Following in the footsteps of such comic book film bows as Spider-Man and X2: X-Men United, Marvel armoured avenger Iron Man is staking out an early May release date. The Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment film is scheduled to open May 2, 2008, the studio said last week. Directed by Jon Favreau, the project marks the first motion picture to be produced by Marvel under its alliance with the studio. Iron Man, based on the best-selling comic book character, is the first feature film to be produced independently by Marvel Entertainment and also marks the first production under former Marvel Studios CEO Avi Arad's newly launched production company, Avi Arad Prods.

www.star-eentral.com, 29 Jun

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## **'Vampire' accused of sexual assault**

She was 15. He was 20. They were both into vampirism, or drinking blood. According to a criminal complaint, they had sex a week after they met last fall and then another five times over 2 1/2 weeks before he left her, saying that he was worried someone would reveal their relationship. Months later, someone did. It was her.

The criminal complaint warrant attached to an arrest warrant. Winona police are looking for Michael Earl Kulas Jr., who has been accused of sexually assaulting the victim, as well as a second 15-year-old, after the first victim reported him to police at the Winona Senior High School in April.

Police had been investigating Kulas as early as February, when they warned him to stop hanging around the high school. He told police at the time he had never had sex with a juvenile.

Kulas has since admitted to officers that he had sex with both victims — the first victim during the fall of 2005, and the second during March of this year — but said he was so drunk during each encounter that he had trouble remembering the details. He told police he had sex with the first victim at acquaintances' houses. The second victim told police that the two had sex in a restaurant bathroom and at the girl's parents' house.

Kulas has been charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct charges, which carry a prison sentence of up to 15 years and a fine of \$30,000. In Minnesota, it is illegal for minors between 13 and 16 to have sexual contact with anyone who is more than two years older than them, regardless of consent.

Kulas is on probation for restraining a juvenile girl in December.

Brian Voerding  
Winona Daily News, 30 Jun