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International Upire News

Vol. 2, Nov. 2007

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Catalunya (Catalonia)

Paisos Catalans (Catalan Nations)

Kill suspect - 'I'm a vampire'

A suspect in the horrific slaying of a British tourist tells website users in a bizarre video rant: "I'm a vampire, I'm Dracula. I'm gonna suck your blood."

Rudy Hermann Guede, a suspect in the murder of UK student Meredith Kercher whose bloody fingerprints were allegedly found in her bedroom, was picked up on a train in Germany yesterday.

He will be returned to Italy where police had issued an international warrant for his arrest.

Miss Kercher, 21, was found semi-naked with her throat cut in the bedroom of her flat in Perugia on November 2. In the five days before Miss Kercher was killed, Guede had been caught with a six-inch knife and, later, with soft drugs. He was bailed each time.

In a day of dramatic developments, officials in Perugia - where Miss Kercher was on a study visit - released another suspect from jail. Diya Patrick Lumumba, a Congolese bar owner in the city, had been in custody for two weeks.

Guede was arrested after he was caught fare-dodging on a train between Koblenz and Mainz. He disappeared soon after the murder, and told friends: "I'm going dancing in Milan."

Before his arrest, a bizarre video of Guede, who has joint Italian and Ivory Coast nationality, was posted on the YouTube website.

Seemingly under the influence of drink or drugs, he rants to the camera in English: "I'm an extra-terra. I'm from alien earth who must be called human people.

"Oh Mamma. I'm a vampire, I'm Dracula. I'm gonna suck your blood."

It is known that he was still in the town as late as last Friday, but police would not explain why he was not arrested while there.

He played for the local basketball team and is said to be "popular" with foreign students in the city.

According to Italian media, he has convictions for drug dealing. Reports said Guede had been "adopted" by a wealthy Perugia family but they disowned him when he became involved in drugs.

Police are believed to have been led to Guede by the statement given by Stefano Bonassi, who lived in the flat below student Meredith, 21.

In it he said: "One guy who came to the house was tall, thin and he always wore basketball shoes and baggy trousers. He was nicknamed Body Roga."

Mr Bonassi also spoke of another frequent visitor to their house who also knew Meredith and suspect Amanda Knox, 20.

Meredith Kercher and her friend Sophie Purton, who shared Meredith's boyfriend's suspicion of Amanda Knox after Meredith was killed.

He told police: "There was a guy nicknamed The Baron. He was short and he had a gym physique, I can't remember his name but I think he was South African.

"One evening when I came home I found this guy with my friends. He was really drunk and in the end he slept on the toilet. He had a physical attraction for Amanda."

Guede's Facebook page has him pictured in several bars in Perugia and on the steps of the town's cathedral - a popular gathering place for students.

There is also a picture of him alongside Giorgio Armani but no explanation of how they met.

He describes his political views as "liberal" and his religion as "peace" while he adds he is after "whatever I can get".

Miss Kercher, 21, from Coulsdon, Surrey, was found semi-naked with her throat cut in the bedroom of her flat in Perugia on November 2.

Herald Sun, 21 Nov.

Sarah Michelle Gellar changes her name

It's all change for Sarah Michelle Gellar.

The Buffy the Vampire Slayer star has reportedly officially changed her name to Sarah Michelle Prinze.

The Hollywood actress took husband Freddie Prinze Jr's name to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary, the New York Post reports.

Gellar and Prinze met on the set of the teen horror film 'I Know What You Did Last Summer' in 1997.

The couple began dating in 2000, became engaged in April 2001 and finally tied the knot in Mexico on September 1 2002.

Graeme Massie

Showbiz Gossip, 21 Nov.

The real Dracula dies aged 67

Legend says Dracula can only be killed by having a stake driven through his heart... but this time the Count was done for by cancer.

Ottomar Rodolphe Vlad Dracula Prince Kretzulesco may not have been a blood relative of his legendary namesake, but he was the legitimate heir of the Dracula family when he passed away aged 67.

The Berlin antiques dealer joined the dynasty, which can be traced to the 13th century, by marrying Romanian princess Katharina Olympia Caradja - a descendant of Vlad Dracula, upon whom novelist Bram Stoker based his vampire.

Also known as Vlad the Impaler, 15th century ruler Dracula was renowned for his cruelty. Stoker's fictional character was a bloodsucking living-dead who lived in a crumbling Transylvanian castle.

However, his latest namesake led a far more ordinary life as plain old Ottomar Berbig until Katharina fell for him.

Speaking about their first meeting, the Count said: "Because she felt I looked like a typical Romanian, she decided to introduce me to the family."

Having become Count Dracula when they wed, all his attempts to cash in on the family name - including vampire-themed parties - came to nothing.

But this isn't the end of the Count. His young son, Otti, inherits the name - so Dracula still walks the Earth...

DRAC FACTS

Poppy seeds are left in cemeteries so that vampires - compulsive counters - will spend the night adding up rather than biting necks.

In Bram Stoker's novel, Dracula arrives in Whitby by taking the form of a dog.

Tom Parry
Daily Mirror, 22 Nov.
