

## POSITIVE THROUGH ADVERSITY

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### DEATH OF KAREN BUCKLEY

# The dignity of a devastated dad

■ Our hearts are broken, says grieving father ■ Family hope 'evil' killer will spend life in jail ■ Pacteau beat Karen to death with a spanner

Joe Leogue Glasgow

"Our hearts are broken at the thought of Karen's final moments on this world."

"The thought of her being alone, frightened, and struggling for her life haunts us. The panic and fear she experienced as she fought for her very survival, but she had no chance against that coward."

Speaking moments after Alexander Pacteau pleaded guilty to the murder of Karen Buckley, her father John described her killer as 'evil', and said he hopes the 21-year-old spends the rest of his life in prison.

Glasgow High Court heard that Pacteau killed Karen by hitting her at least 12 times with a spanner before hiding her body in a barrel of chemicals. He had offered her a lift from outside the Sanctuary Nightclub where they met in the early hours of Sunday, April 12.

CTV footage captured them walking along Dumbarton Rd, and Pacteau then drove with her in his car to nearby Kelvin Way. The car was parked on the street for 12 minutes, during which time Pacteau, who calls himself as a "self-employed sales consultant", attacked and murdered her by grabbing her neck and delivering 12 or 13 blows with the spanner.

Following the guilty plea, the court heard in forensic detail how Pacteau tried to hide his crime by dissolving Karen's body in chemicals.

Judge Lady Rita Rae described the case as "shocking and disturbing".

"You killed a young



John Buckley reads a statement with his wife Marian outside Glasgow High Court after Alexander Pacteau admitted the murder of their daughter Karen last April.

Picture: Danny Lawson/PA

woman who was a stranger to you," she said.

"This was a motiveless, senseless and brutal attack on her."

"What you did after, including telling police a tissue of lies, would have no doubt caused the family increased distress."

Karen's parents, John

and Marian, and her brothers Brendan, Kieran, and Damien were in court for the proceedings.

Pacteau, dressed in a grey suit, sat with his head bowed throughout and displayed no emotion as he was led away to his cell. He will be sentenced on September 8.

Speaking outside court as his wife clutched a picture of their daughter, Mr Buckley thanked those who have helped the family over the past four months, and the Scottish police for bringing her killer to justice.

"It's every parent's worst nightmare, as we know now, when we got that phone call,

Karen was missing in Glasgow and her phone had gone dead," he said.

"We went over, waited, hoped, and prayed day and night for her safe return, only to be told she had been murdered."

"We were devastated. "Having to phone our three sons and give them the

dreadful news before they heard it on the media was one of the hardest things we ever had to do..."

"I dread to think of them trying to deal with the shock and horror of being told that their only sister had been brutally murdered."

"When Karen's body was released a week later, we

went back to Glasgow as a family and brought her to our home in Mourneabbey. That was a very special night as we were all together again under the one roof where Karen and her three brothers had grown up."

"Two days later after the funeral Mass, our three sons and I lowered Karen's coffin

into her grave, her final resting place. What a waste of a young life. It all seemed unreal..."

"All Karen was doing was making her way home when she was randomly targeted and murdered by a cowardly vicious criminal."

"No words of ours can do justice to our feelings towards him. He is truly evil and we hope that he will spend the rest of his life behind bars."

"The last face she saw and the last voice she heard was of that cold-blooded cowardly murderer, who calmly set about trying to dispose of her body so she would never be found. Only for the swift action of the police and the people of Glasgow we were able to find Karen and bring her home and give her a dignified burial," he said.

Speaking of how Pacteau tried to destroy Karen's remains, Mr Buckley said her killer not only robbed us of our beautiful daughter and sister," he said. "He also robbed us of Karen in death as we never got to see her, hold her or kiss her good bye."

"It's too late now for Karen but in the future we hope Glasgow will be a safer place for women to walk in, which is their right and to not have this evil murderer to fear..."

"We will never see Karen again in this life. Never see her smiling face, hear her laugh and hear her voice. There are no words to describe our loss..."

"She is not suffering now, she is in her new home in heaven. "We miss her terribly..."

News: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Editorial: 14

## Karen's killer stood trial for sexual assault

Joe Leogue

Alexander Pacteau planned to find a victim on the night he brutally killed Cork nurse Karen Buckley in Glasgow, police believe.

It has also emerged that he previously stood trial in 2013 for sexually assaulting a 24-year-old woman.

After Pacteau pleaded guilty to murder, the detective who led the investigation said he believed the

21-year-old had a premeditated plan to attack somebody on the night Karen was killed.

Det Supt Jim Kerr said that he did not believe Pacteau's account that a "trivial argument" with Karen led him to kill her.

"We would describe him as being callous and calculated and that could have



Alexander Pacteau

happened to any female that night," said Det Supt Jim Kerr. "We can't see anything from our investigation that would have predicted what he did on the night in question."

"There was a premeditated plan that night to find some victim. "There's no question he saw an opportunity. But

whether that was Karen Buckley or somebody else remains to be seen."

"We have no information as to why she got in the car, all we know is she left that nightclub to go home to the city centre and he headed off in the car in that direction."

He also revealed the scale of the operation. "We visited and obtained CCTV footage from over 49 premises, both private and public sector,

and we viewed and examined over 1,900 hours of CCTV footage so it was crucial in our investigation."

It also emerged that, in 2013, a jury found Pacteau not guilty of sexual assault. He reportedly told Paisley High Court: "I would never make an attempt to sexually assault the woman. I believe rape is the lowest of the low. I'd rather be charged with murder than attempted rape."

### Inside

#### News

Fine Gael and Labour are close to agreeing a pact where party leaders and canvassers will ask voters to give outgoing Coalition colleagues their second vote. **Page: 12**



#### World

Parts of a Buk missile system are believed to have been found at the site where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was brought down last year. **Page: 13**

## Almost 800 Leaving Cert students fail honours maths in hunt for points

Niall Murray Education Correspondent

Almost 800 students who attempted higher-level Leaving Certificate Applied results this morning, with 46,676 of them hoping for college offers from the Central Applications Office on Monday.

While the number taking the honours maths papers reached another record high — just over 27% — the proportion who did not pass is 5.2% — up from 4.5% a year ago and just 2.8% in 2012, when 26 extra CAO points were first made available for passing.

The number affected is 764 out of the record 14,691 higher-level maths candidates, up from 645 a year ago and



Amy Barry, Carrigtwohill, and Gary O'Herlihy, Rochestown, students at Bruce College, who receive their results today. Picture: David Keane

three times the figure in 2011 and 2012.

While their E, F, or NG grades make them ineligible for many courses, the Department of Education said the increase was slight compared to last year and rising failure rates were factored into the planning of the bonus point scheme.

A spokesperson said the fall rates are significantly lower than for science subjects.

Many third-level colleges hold second-chance exams this month for students who do not achieve the Leaving Certificate standards for certain courses, mostly in science and engineering.

Employers' body Ibec pointed to the increase in uptake of higher-level maths of recent years, from just 16% in 2011.

"Over 70% of students who took the option this year achieved a minimum

of grade C, suggesting that greater numbers and support are capable of studying higher level," said Ibec's head of education policy, Tony

The numbers choosing higher-level Irish are also up, reaching nearly 42% as the effect of increased marks for the oral test continues.

Education Minister Jan O'Sullivan highlighted increasing uptake of chemistry (up 3.9%), physics (up 4.6%) and applied maths, which saw a 12.5% rise to 1,919 candidates.

While overall numbers taking exams are up 1.6%, the Teachers' Union of Ireland said drops in those taking LCA and the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme should be investigated.

"We believe cuts to capital grants and support roles such as guidance counselling and year head have had a negative effect on the programmes," said TUI president Gerry Quinn.

**Students scoring 500 points or higher CAO applicants = 9.4% Bruce College = 32%**

**Students scoring 400 points or higher CAO applicants = 34% Bruce College = 83%**

### Repeat and Do Better!

SAMPLE OF REPEAT STUDENTS*			
	First Exam	Repeat Exam	Improvement
S.S	340	515	175
H.N	255	425	170
K.N	285	455	170
G.C	215	375	160
R.C	410	555	145
N.F	360	500	140
S.D	340	475	135
M.C	175	310	135
G.E	420	520	100

\*Results 2014

**Average Repeat Improvement: 110**

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