

WARMING UP... dancers Gulmira Bilmagombetova, Albina Kughinshaya and Jana Pugorkina at Swansea Marina.

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P.R. Thomas

Impressed with the Welsh... they enthused about Swansea's indoor market and shopping centre.

# Sheep slaughtered by crazed knifeman

By DAVID VICKERMAN  
Agriculture Editor

**THIRTEEN** ewes, 12 of them pregnant, have been slaughtered in a savage attack at a Welsh farm.

A police hunt is under way for the crazed knifeman who cut the throats of the 13 sheep before breaking their necks, dumping their bodies and fleeing.

There is concern that the killings are just the latest in a series of crimes involving sheep farms on the rural fringes of urban South Wales.

Farmer Richard Morris made the grim discovery after being alerted by a neighbour at his farm near Caerphilly.

He said at first he thought just a couple of sheep had been killed by stray dogs. But when he ar-

**ORPHANED** ... farmer Richard Morris cradles a three-week-old lamb. Its mother was one of 13 ewes slaughtered by a knifeman.

rived at the common where his sheep had been grazing, on Mynydd Meyo — almost a mile from his farmhouse, he counted 13 bodies, 12 of them heavily pregnant ewes just 10 days away from lambing.

One newly-born lamb, belonging to the 13th dead ewe, was

running around distraught.

Mr Morris, aged 35, farms the land with his mother. Between them they look after some 400 sheep and 10,000 free-range chickens.

Last night he said this latest incident, which is feared could be part of a wide-ranging farming

feud in the area, would not scare him off.

"I felt very sickened and angry but it won't frighten me off."

The attack must have been carried out by someone who knew about farming because of the timing and nature of the inci-



dent, he said.

Last night Lloyd James, an inspector with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Wales, said it was one of the worst incidents he had come across.

"The throats were cut by a sharp implement and the heads pulled back to break the back bone. "They were killed in the place where they were standing.

"I have seen quite a few similar incidents in my time but this seemed to be needless killing, and a total waste."

He said the RSPCA was co-operating with police to track down the killer — or killers.

Detective Constable John Penhale of Pontypridd said last night, "This was an appalling attack. An investigation is underway."

A spokesman for the National Farmers' Union in Wales said, "This is yet another incident which illustrates the problems faced by farmers who farm near urban environments."