

Title: *Boston Evening American* Sports Chart Entries Edition

City, State: Boston, Massachusetts

Date: 25 August 1953

Page: 5

50 Sleep Pills Vanish With Missing Smith Girl

State Police said today that a 20-year-old Smith College senior was believed to have taken a bottle of about 50 sleeping pills with her when she vanished mysteriously from her Wellesley home after leaving her

mother a note that she was "going for a hike."

Search for Sylvia Plath, of Elmwood st., a brilliant student who led the college's junior list of last year, was concentrated today in the woods near Lake Waban and Morse's Pond in Wellesley [Wellesley].

[Artists rendition of photograph of SP wearing necklace and jacket]

Sylvia Plath

A bloodhound was brought from the Andover State Police barracks to aid in the hunt, but was unable [unable] to pick up the girl's trail there, probably, police said, because the woodlands [woodlands] were drenched with heavy rain last night.

Sylvia's mother, Mrs. Aurelia Plath, a Boston University professor [professor], told police that the Wellesley [Wellesley] woods, the banks of the Charles river, and Boston Common [Common] and the Public Garden were her daughter's favorite haunts when she went for walks. About 50 police and volunteers took part in the woods hunt today. A family friend, Col. Rex Gary, a former Army Intelligence officer [officer] was one of the searchers.

State Police said they did not learn until this noon that the bottle of sleeping pills was missing [missing] from the girl's room. The note which Sylvia left for her mother read:

"I'm going for a hike and will be back tomorrow."

Mrs. Plath said she was hopeful [hopeful] that Sylvia would return today [today] as she promised, but agreed her daughter's note was most unusual [unusual] because the girl invariably kept her informed of her exact whereabouts.

The girl has been nervous and under a doctor's care for several months, her mother said and had been advised to devote less time to academic activities in the interest [interest] of her health.

Mrs. Plath said her daughter was on the verge of a breakdown

as the result of extremely intensive [intensive] activities.

When last seen, the girl was wearing a blue denim skirt and blue jersey blouse.

Sylvia is five feet nine and weighs 140 pounds. Her hair is dark brown and her eyes are brown.

Transcribed by Peter K. Steinberg, 11 September 2016.