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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 inten-

sive [intensive] activities. She said in addition [addition] to maintaining one of the highest scholastic standings at Smith, Sylvia was working on poetry for submission to national publications.

The girl's work already has appeared in Harper's, Mademoi-

selle [Mademoiselle] and other magazines. She is the subject of a college feature [feature] in the current issue of Mademoiselle. Sylvia is a full-scholarship student at Smith.

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.

Sylvia has a brother, Warren, 17, who will enter Harvard this fall. She is the daughter of the late Dr. Otto Plath, a Boston University professor who died 10 years ago.

Transcribed by Peter K. Steinberg, 11 September 2016.