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Wellesley Woods Searched

Police, Boy Scouts Hunt

Missing Smith Student

[Photograph of SP wearing necklace and jacket]

SYLVIA PLATH, missing Wellesley Girl.

Search for the missing Sylvia Plath, brilliant, beautiful 20-year-old Smith College senior who disappeared yesterday from her home at 26 Elmwood road, Wellesley, was concentrated [concentrated] this afternoon on the heavily wooded area back of Elmwood road and on the shores of Morses Pond and Lake Waban.

Wellesley police, aided by Boy Scouts and neighbors in the area off the Worcester Turnpike, were carrying on a foot-by-foot search after the Andover State Police bloodhound [bloodhound], Big Sid, had failed to turn up a scent, owing to last evening's heavy rain.

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STUDENT

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Miss Plath disappeared from her home yesterday, apparently around 2 . m., after penning a

note to her mother saying she was "taking a long hike" and would "be back tomorrow."

The mother, Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath, said that her daughter was close to a nervous collapse due to extremely intensive activities [activities].

Not only was she maintaining [maintaining] one of the highest scholastic standings at Smith, but also was at work on poetry for submission [submission] to nationally known publications. Her work already has appeared in Harpers, Mademoiselle [Mademoiselle] and other magazines and she was the subject of a college feature story in the current [current] Mademoiselle.

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Mrs. Plath became concerned over her daughter's absence at supper-time when Sylvia failed

to return. She said her daughter [daughter] was unfailingly dependable about telephoning her whereabouts [whereabouts]. Sylvia was told by her doctor to devote less time to academic activities in the interest [interest] of her health, her mother [mother] said.

A full-scholarship student at Smith, Sylvia is widely known on the campus and among alumnae for her brilliance, creative [creative] talent and initiative. She topped the college's list of junior students last year.

"It sounds peculiar," Mrs. Plath said, "but she has set standards for herself that are almost unattainable. She's made almost a minor obsession of fulfilling what she believes to be her responsibility to her sponsors, and I am gravely concerned for her.

Search Favorite Boston Places

A family friend, Col Rex Gary, formerly associated with United States Army Intelligence, assisted Mrs. Plath and her son, Warren, 18, in the search for the girl.

Mrs. Plath said her daughter was fond of taking long hikes along the Charles River, or wandering through Boston Common and the Public Garden, and Boston and Cambridge police sent search parties [parties] to these areas.

With Col Gary, Mrs. Plath and Warren themselves came to Boston late last night in the hope of sighting [sighting] the girl in one of her favorite haunts.

It was emphasized that Sylvia's departure was "completely unlike her," and Mrs. Plath felt certain some form of nervous exhaustion or collapse may have occurred.

Prominent alumnae and officials of Smith expressed their concern over the girl's absence, and referred [referred] to her as "one of the most outstanding girls we have."

Mrs. Plath described her daughter [daughter] as five feet, nine inches tall, weighing about 140 pounds, dark hair, brown eyes, and wearing a light blue skirt and white sleeveless [sleeveless] blouse when she left home.

Transcribed by Peter K. Steinberg, 11 September 2016.