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Beautiful Smith Girl Missing at Wellesley

[Photograph of SP wearing necklace and jacket]

SYLVIA PLATH, missing Wellesley Girl.

Police in Greater Boston
Communities joined in the
search last night for Sylvia
Plath, 20, a brilliant beautiful
Smith College senior from
Wellesley, who disappeared
from her home yesterday aft-
ernoon [afternoon] after leaving a note to
her mother.

Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath, of 26
Elmwood st., said her daughter
apparently left the house at 2
p. m., leaving a note saying she
was "Taking a long hike" and
would "be back tomorrow."

However, Mrs. Plath said her
daughter was close to nervous
collapse as a result of extreme-
ly [extremely] intensive activities. Not only
was she maintaining one of the
highest scholastic standings at
Smith, but also was at work on
poetry for submission to na-
tionally-known [nationally]publications.
Her work already has appeared
in Harpers, Mademoiselle and
other magazines, and she was
the subject of a college feature

story in the current Madam-
moiselle [Madamoiselle].

Mrs. Plath became concerned
over her daughter's absence at
supper-time when Sylvia failed
to return. She said her daugh-
ter [daughter] was unfailingly dependable

about telephoning her where-
abouts [whereabout]. Sylvia was told by her
doctor to devote less time to
academic activities in the in-
terest [interest] of her health, her moth-
er [mother] said.

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A full-scholarship student at
Smith, Sylvia is widely known
on the campus and among
alumnae for her brilliance, cre-
ative [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.