

# COLLECTION OF ARTICLES

(Last Updated: December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

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## II. MISCELLANEOUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

# **I. SELECTED KEY ARTICLES**

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## **The Caledonian-Record, February 12, 2004, Haverhill - Police Ask For Help Finding Missing Woman, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record February 12, 2004

Haverhill - Police Ask For Help Finding Missing Woman  
Gary E. Lindsley

Haverhill police officials have issued a plea for the public's help in locating a missing 21-year-old Massachusetts woman. The woman, Maura Murray of Hanson, may be suicidal, according to a press release by Police Chief Jeffrey Williams.

Police began their search after they responded to a one-car accident on Wild Ammonoosuc Road in Woodsville, Monday. When officers arrived at the scene of the accident, they found an abandoned, black 1996 Saturn bearing Massachusetts plates.

A search of the area for Murray by local police, New Hampshire State Police and emergency medical services personnel came up empty. Witnesses who saw the accident told police they had seen a lone woman. They also said that it didn't appear that the woman had been injured in the accident.

When asked if she needed help or the police, she reportedly said, "No." She left the scene before police and EMS arrived. Murray was last seen wearing jeans and a dark colored coat. She is a white female with brown, shoulder-length hair and blue eyes. She is 5 feet, 7 inches tall and weighs about 120 pounds.

Police say an intensive search is under way and is being conducted by the Haverhill Police Department, Troop F and New Hampshire Fish and Game. A New Hampshire State Police helicopter also is taking part in the search.

Police are asking anyone who may have seen a woman matching Murray's description Monday near the accident scene at about 7 p.m. to contact them. Additionally, anyone seeing her since the night of the accident should call the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

Police believe Murray may be headed to the Kancamagus Highway area.

**Massachusetts Daily Collegian, February 17, 2004, Missing student a mystery to police, classmates, Erica Lovley and Ferron Salneer**

Massachusetts Daily Collegian  
February 17, 2004

Missing student a mystery to police, classmates  
Erica Lovley and Ferron Salneer

Police are investigating the disappearance of a University of Massachusetts student who was last seen at the site of a car crash on Monday, Feb. 9. According to the Boston Globe, Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass. crashed her car into a snow bank last Monday in Haverhill, N.H. The accident was her second in three days; Murray had recently crashed her father's car on Saturday of the previous weekend.

Murray disappeared from the site of the crash after a resident tried to help and who had called the police, despite Murray asking him not to, the Globe reported. Murray was gone upon arrival of police, her car left abandoned and undrivable, the Globe said.

Chief Jeff Williams of the Haverhill Police Department does not think foul play was involved. "Our concern is that she's upset or suicidal, something the family was concerned about," he told the Globe on Friday.

The accident took place along Route 112, about five miles away from Wells River, Vt., and a mile away from Swift Water Village by the Connecticut River. Police used dogs, a helicopter and Fish and Game Officers to perform an immediate search around the crash site area and found nothing. The search has since been called off.

Murray is a junior nursing major, a Dean's List student who works in a local art gallery. Two UMPD officers, Detectives Chris Thrasher and Brian Davies and two counselors from Mental Health Services visited a junior nursing class, Parent-Child Nursing, on Friday afternoon. Joan Cully, administrative director of the Office for the Advancement of Nursing Education and Eileen Breslin, dean of the school of Nursing were also present at the meeting.

In addition, an email was written by Breslin, and released to the UMass nursing community. According to the email, Murray sent an email to her faculty Monday afternoon at 1:24 p.m. indicating she was heading home for the week due to a death in the family and that she would contact everyone when she returned.

Lindsay Pemberton, a junior nursing major, has the same class schedule as Murray and was present for the meeting on Friday. Pemberton told The Massachusetts Daily Collegian that staff in the nursing department spoke to Murray's family, and were told that there were no recent family deaths.

"Also, her dorm room was all packed up, like she was planning on moving out," said Pemberton.

The email to the nursing community also stated that Murray called her boyfriend, Army Lieutenant Bill Rausch, Tuesday morning. At the Friday meeting police said that Rausch only heard someone

breathing on the other line. The police were unable to trace the call. According to Sharon Rausch, the boyfriend's mother, Murray had e-mailed her boyfriend on Monday afternoon, saying she needed to speak with him.

Murray's family, including Rausch, and his parents, have flown to New England and are passing out fliers along the New Hampshire-Vermont state boarder, hoping someone will recognize Murray. "She was really quiet and didn't hang out with any of us," said Pemberton. "She was a sweet person, but she didn't get personal with anyone."

Murray and Rausch met at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. As of yesterday afternoon, the Haverhill police have had no leads in the case and hope that Murray will try to contact a friend or family member. "The case is under investigation and we are not discussing it at this time," said the Haverhill Police Department.

**The Caledonian-Record, February 20, 2004, Area Man Laments The Events Of Feb. 9 - Missing Woman Didn't Accept His Help, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
February 20, 2004

Area Man Laments The Events Of Feb. 9 - Missing Woman Didn't Accept His Help  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Butch Atwood wishes the events of the night of Feb. 9 had gone much differently for a missing 21-year-old Massachusetts woman. Atwood was on his way home, about a mile from Swiftwater on Route 112 in Haverhill, when rounding the sharp left-hand curve by The Weathered Barn, he saw a black Saturn partially in the roadway and partially mired in the snow. It was about 7:30 p.m., he said.

The driver had failed to negotiate the sharp curve after passing the barn, gone off the road and struck a stand of trees on the right side of the highway. The car sustained extensive front-end damage. Atwood, a school bus driver for First Student, was returning from dropping off students after a day of skiing at Wildcat Mountain.

He stopped the school bus by the Saturn to see if he could help. "She was still in the car," Atwood said, referring to Maura Murray. Murray, who is from Hanson, Mass., and is a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has been missing since the night of the accident.

Atwood said the Saturn's lights weren't on. "I shined the light in (her car)," he said. "I said, Are you OK?' She said she was." Atwood said he got a good look at her. She looked to be about 20 and had dark hair. As a matter of safety, he told her to turn her car's lights on so no one would strike her vehicle coming around the curve.

"I saw no blood," he said. "She was cold and she was shivering. I told her I was going to call the police." Murray, according to Atwood, told him not to because she had already called AAA.

"I said, OK. I will make a call to the police department and the fire department to check you out," he said. "I said, Why don't you come to my house? You can get warm and wait for the police and EMS." Atwood said she just told him to go. He drove to his house, about 75 yards from the scene of the accident, and backed it his driveway before running into the house to call police.

However, he couldn't get through to the Haverhill Police Department and the Grafton County Sheriff's Department. He called 911 and the operator couldn't either. Atwood said another 911 operator was able to get through.

While he was talking on his phone on his front porch, Atwood could see the road, but not Murray's disabled car. He saw several vehicles drive by, but couldn't tell any makes or models because it was so dark. After about seven to nine minutes, he looked out and saw the Haverhill Police. Atwood believed the situation was under control and went to the school bus to tend to his paperwork.

The next thing he knew, Haverhill Police Department Sgt. Cecil Smith was banging on his bus window. Smith asked him if he had called in the accident and seen anyone at the scene. Atwood told

Smith he had seen a girl about 20 with dark hair. Smith said when he arrived, Murray was no longer with her car. In the seven to nine minutes between the time Atwood had left Murray to call for help and the time Smith arrived, Murray had vanished.

"I took a ride around the back roads," Atwood said. "I was gone about 15 minutes. Then I took a ride to French Pond." He even drove about a mile down the road to the store in Swiftwater to check and see if she was there. She wasn't. When he returned to the accident scene, a New Hampshire State Police trooper was there.

Atwood said they checked the woods in the immediate area to see if Murray had gone into the forest. There weren't any tracks. He said there wasn't any way Murray could have driven the car after the accident. He said the radiator had been pushed back into the fan. The air bag also had been deployed.

However, he said it didn't appear Murray had been injured, just shaken up. "I just wish I could have gotten her to come with me," he lamented. "But I am a big man, over 350 pounds. She may have gotten into a car with someone who was clean cut."

Atwood believes one of the vehicles which had passed his house could have stopped and picked her up. "She could be anywhere, absolutely," Atwood said. He said whoever may have picked her up could have driven toward the area of Lincoln, or back to Route 302 and over to Vermont.

Anyone who has seen Murray is asked to contact the New Hampshire State Police at 603-846-3333 or 603-271-1170. People also can call the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

## **The Caledonian-Record, February 20, 2004, Air, Ground Search Futile - FBI Called Into Case, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
February 20, 2004

Air, Ground Search Futile - FBI Called Into Case  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Nancy Lyon and her canine partner, a 3-year-old malinois, Quicklie, spent most of Thursday morning scouring a section of Route 112 for a missing 21-year-old Hanson, Mass., woman. Lyon and Quiklie are members of the New England K-9 Search and Rescue group. They were one of three canine teams taking part in the search for Maura Murray, a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

They were unable to turn up any sign of the missing college student. A ground and air search coordinated by New Hampshire Fish and Game failed to turn up any clues in Murray's disappearance Thursday.

Murray unexpectedly left her college and her job at an art gallery Feb. 9 and headed to New Hampshire in her black 1996 Saturn. She was traveling on Route 112 around 7 p.m. in Haverhill when she failed to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve past The Weathered Barn and crashed into a stand of trees on the right side of the highway.

The front end of the car suffered extensive damage upon impact. The car's radiator was pushed back into the fan, making the vehicle inoperable. Fish and Game Lt. Todd Bogardus, in a press conference at the Haverhill Police Department Thursday afternoon, said the three canine teams, two of which were part of the New England K-9 Search and Rescue group, and the other from the state police, were unable to come up with any clues. Two of the canines were air scent dogs.

"The results today were non-conclusive," Bogardus said. "We were unable to locate anything within a 2-mile square radius." Between the air and ground searches, he said there weren't any conclusive clues to enable a continuation of the search. "Tracks are prevalent out there, but none connected with Maura," he said. "So, now our ground search is suspended."

Lt. John Scarinza of New Hampshire State Police Troop F said police know Murray had e-mailed her employer she was taking a week off for a family emergency. "How and why she ended up in Haverhill is unknown," he said. However, Maura's father, Fred Murray, has said the family used to camp in the area and Maura was familiar with New Hampshire.

"We are reasonably confident she did not enter the woods near the crash scene," Scarinza said. He also said police don't have any indication any harm has come to her. "There is no indication someone picked her up," Scarinza said. "At this point, I have no reason to believe that (she was taken against her will)."

The FBI, he said, is now involved with the case and is conducting a background investigation in Massachusetts. "We have not asked them to do that," Scarinza said, referring to checking her computer



for any information which would help move the investigation along. "We have been working with the University of Massachusetts police at Amherst. They have been a tremendous help." Police have checked bus companies and questioned bus drivers to see if Murray had caught a bus somewhere. Nothing has proven that was the case.

Authorities are also conducting background checks of "people of interest" in the area. When asked why a second ground and air search was conducted Thursday, nearly a week and a half after the accident, Scarinza said, "We wanted to make sure we had done everything twice. We have a very good feeling we have done everything we can do at the crash site."

Police in the meantime have been tracking Murray's credit cards and bank accounts. But they aren't revealing anything they have learned. Sharon Rausch, the mother of Bill Rausch, who is Murray's fiance-to-be and a second lieutenant with C Battery, 119th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla., was present at the press conference.

"It's been a long, long 10 days," Rausch said. "We are very worried. We believe she is somewhere and someone is preventing her from contacting us. "She loved her family and there is no way she would put her father and my son through this." Rausch, who is from Marengo, Ohio, wanted to send a message to Murray.

"Maura, we love you," she said. "Don't you give up. We will never give up. We will find you."

## **The Caledonian-Record, February 27, 2004, Seeking Outside Help - Family, Friends of Maura Murray Upset With Investigation, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
February 27, 2004

Seeking Outside Help  
Family, Friends of Maura Murray Upset With Investigation  
By Gary E. Lindsley

HAVERHILL, NEW HAMPSHIRE - Family and friends of 21-year-old Maura Murray believe someone picked up the University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student after she was involved in a one-car accident in Haverhill, N.H., Feb. 9. They have hired an outside investigator to find out what happened to her.

It has been more than 2-1/2 weeks since Murray's car failed to negotiate a sharp curve near The Weathered Barn on Route 112 and crashed into a stand of trees about one mile east of Swiftwater. "With all the attention from the media, if a good person had picked her up, he would have come forward," said Sharon Rausch, mother of Bill Rausch, Murray's boyfriend. "It leads us to believe a bad guy picked her up."

"I just wish they would treat this as a criminal investigation. If they treated it as such, the FBI could become more involved." The "they" she is referring to is New Hampshire State Police Troop F and the Haverhill Police Department.

Rausch said her son Bill, Murray's father, Fred, and Murray's siblings, Freddy, Kathleen and Julie, are all frustrated with the lack of leads and the apparent belief by law officials that Murray's disappearance is nothing more than a person not wanting anyone to know where she is.

They believe Murray would have fought anyone trying to abduct her. Family members and friends are also frustrated with conflicting information in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Murray, who is 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs about 120 pounds and has brown hair and blue eyes, was last seen on the UMass campus between 4 and 4:30 p.m. Feb. 9.

### **Packed Up Her Dorm Room**

UMass Police Department Detective Brian Davies said Murray had packed up all her belongings in her dorm room and appeared to be moving out and not returning.

Murray also had notified her professors she was going to be gone for a week because of a family emergency. A search of Murray's computer by UMass detectives turned up evidence she had conducted a Mapquest search on the Internet for directions to Burlington, Vt.

Murray may have been having trouble with her black 1996 Saturn. Rausch said she understood the vehicle was not running on all of its cylinders. Believing that, Murray may have left Interstate 91 and exited onto Route 302. She then picked up Route 112 and was headed east when her accident occurred.

She reportedly is familiar with the White Mountains region because of family camping trips.  
Accident Scene

After Murray's accident, Butch Atwood said he was returning from taking students skiing when he spotted Murray's car half in the road and half off the road without its flashers on at about 7:30 p.m.

Others near the scene said the car's emergency flashers were on. Atwood, who drives a First Student school bus, stopped his school bus by the Saturn to see if he could help. Murray was still in her car.

Atwood said she looked to be about 20 and had dark hair. "I saw no blood," he said. "She was cold and she was shivering. I told her I was going to call the police."

Murray, according to Atwood, told him not to because she had already called AAA. Atwood said he invited the woman to wait at his house, nearby, but she declined. He said he then went home to call 911.

After about seven to nine minutes, he looked out and saw a Haverhill police cruiser by the Saturn. A short time later, Haverhill Police Department officer, Sgt. Cecil Smith, notified Atwood that when he arrived at the crash scene, Murray was no longer with her car. Between the time Atwood had left Murray and her vehicle to call for help and the time Smith arrived, Murray had vanished.

State police arrived and checked the woods in the immediate area to see if Murray had gone into the forest. There weren't any tracks. Atwood said Murray didn't appear to be intoxicated, despite police having said a witness indicated she had appeared to be impaired due to alcohol.

He lamented the fact Murray had not accepted his offer for help. He noted school bus drivers have to go through extensive background checks.

#### Police Delay Search And Press Release

Family members and friends are upset because police did not issue a press release seeking people's help in locating Murray until two days after the accident. They also are upset because a thorough search of the area wasn't conducted until two days after the accident.

On Feb. 11, a canine team tracked Murray from the crash site east for about 100 yards.

Troop F Commander Lt. John Scarinza this week said investigators are still treating Murray's disappearance as a missing person investigation. Scarinza says there is absolutely no evidence foul play has been involved, and that people living in the area of the accident scene have been interviewed several times. A search of nearby homes by a canine team as well as forensics experts would require a search warrant. And a search warrant would require probable cause.

Rausch said family members were told by at least one person living near the accident site a man was seen in Maura's car after the accident. Scarinza said investigators are using all the tools they have available to them to locate Murray. Rausch said despite the appearance of Murray's dorm room, she and family members don't believe that's the case.

She said Murray, on the day of the accident, had picked up insurance forms related to an accident she'd had on Feb. 7. Murray was going to call her father the night of Feb. 9 to have him help her fill out the insurance forms.

Those forms, according to Rausch, were found in Murray's car along with school books, clothing and expensive jewelry. The insurance forms and school books indicated to Rausch that Murray was going to return to Massachusetts and the university and was planning to study while she was away.

Family members and friends also are upset with no information coming from someone who placed a calling card call to Bill Rausch's cell phone as he was waiting to fly out of Oklahoma Feb. 11 to come search for his girlfriend.

#### Calling Card Call

Bill Rausch said he heard what he believed to be whimpering and crying. However, Scarinza said that angle has been eliminated because investigators traced the calling card to the American Red Cross officials who had been attempting to contact Bill Rausch.

There also is the mysterious phone call Murray received while working as a security person at a residence hall at the UMass Amherst campus Feb. 5. The call reportedly reduced Murray to tears and her supervisor had to take her home because she was so distraught.

UMass Detective Davies said his department has been able to track the phone call. "We know the location," Davies said. "We have not been able to identify to whom she was speaking. Her friends have no idea who called her." Sharon Rausch said, "It's obvious to us something has happened to distress her."

She said Murray had called Bill Feb. 8 and was crying because of the previous Saturday accident, though he didn't feel that was it. "He told her on a scale of 1 to 10, it was only a 3 or 4," she said. "He had to talk to her a long time to calm her down. We are convinced something happened at school and her Amherst friends know."

Rausch speculated that what happened at the college has nothing to do with what happened to Murray after the accident on Route 112 in New Hampshire. Because family and friends have been frustrated with the way the investigation has been carried out, they have brought in a private investigator to help them find Murray.

R.C. Stevens of PSII Inc., a Northampton, Mass., private investigation agency, is digging into what has happened. A retired state trooper of 22 years, Stevens' firm handles high profile cases.

"Hopefully, we are going to do something soon," he said. Murray's family and friends have started a pledge for reward fund. Rausch said donations aren't being accepted. However, pledges for a reward are, in the event information is provided which leads to Murray's return. People can make pledges to the fund by sending an e-mail to [mauramissing@hotmail.com](mailto:mauramissing@hotmail.com).

Rausch said Duke University Blue Devils basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski and his family have pledged an unspecified amount of money to the reward fund. Krzyzewski met Murray and Bill Rausch around Thanksgiving time and provided them with basketball tickets during the Christmas holiday basketball tourney. Anyone who has seen Murray is asked to contact the New Hampshire State Police at 603-846-3333 or 603-271-1170. People also can call the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

**The Caldedonian-Record, February 28, 2004, Relatives May Have Found A Clue, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caldedonian-Record  
Saturday February 28, 2004

Relatives May Have Found A Clue  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Haverhill, New Hampshire -- Relatives of Maura Murray have found what may be a clue in her disappearance. Kathleen Murray found a pair of white, women's underwear lying on the snow near French Pond Road in Haverhill, Thursday.

Murray said she does not know if they are connected to the disappearance of her sister, who has not been seen since the night of her car accident on Route 112, about a mile east of Swiftwater.

Maura was driving a black 1996 Saturn Feb. 9 when her car failed to negotiate a sharp, left curve past The Weathered Barn and went off the road. Maura is a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Kathleen and her brother, Freddy, have been scouring the area around the accident site every day.

"I have been making my way down (toward the French Pond Road area)," Kathleen said. "We have been tracking through quite a bit of snow." She turned the underwear over to Haverhill Police and said it will be about two weeks before DNA results come back.

"Hopefully, they will turn out not to be hers," Kathleen said. "Maybe it was just teenagers having fun. The area is pretty secluded." Kathleen does not believe Maura has just taken off and doesn't want to be found. "I know my sister," she said. "We were really close. If she were in trouble, she would have called me. I am extremely worried."

Kathleen is hoping to hold some type of fund-raiser to help boost the pledge reward fund established to help find Maura. It currently stands at about \$30,000. Family and friends have sought the assistance of a private investigator. R.C. Stevens of PSII Inc., a Northampton, Mass., private investigation agency, is looking into the disappearance. Anyone who has seen Maura or may have information, is asked to contact the New Hampshire State Police at 603-846-3333 or 603-271-1170; or the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

She is 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighs about 120 pounds, has brown hair and blue eyes, and was last seen wearing a dark coat and jeans.

## **Boston Magazine, January 28, 2014, Bill Jensen, Will the Internet Find Maura Murray?**

Boston Magazine

### **Will the Internet Find Maura Murray?**

Ten years ago, a 21-year-old UMass student vanished without a trace. For an army of amateur sleuths across the Internet, that was just the beginning.

On the afternoon of February 9, 2004, a 21-year old nursing student at UMass Amherst named Maura Murray sent an email to her professors: There was a death in the family, she wrote, and she'd be gone for a few days. Then she gathered up her text books—she'd always been a good student, scoring 1420 on her SATs—and climbed into her Saturn sedan. A 5-foot-7 brunette, she was a native of Hanson, Massachusetts, and had spent three months as a cadet at West Point before transferring to UMass. She packed toiletries, a week's worth of clothes, exercise gear—she ran track and cross-country—a stuffed animal given to her by her dad, and a necklace from her boyfriend, whom she'd met at West Point and was now stationed in Oklahoma. Murray planned to spend the following summer with him, and she may already have known that he intended to propose.

There were other items in the car, many of which would be obsessed over for the next decade: some alcohol; a MapQuest printout of directions to Burlington, Vermont; and a book, titled *Not Without Peril: 150 Years of Misadventure on the Presidential Range of New Hampshire*, which tells the tales of more than a dozen hiker tragedies in the White Mountains. Maura's parents separated when she was six, and though she lived with her mother, her father would often take her hiking in those mountains. By all accounts, she loved going up there.

By 7 p.m, it was dark and Maura was zipping along on a black stretch of Route 112 in Haverhill, New Hampshire. She took a shaky turn and crashed into a snow bank. Not long after, a passing motorist pulled up to the disabled car and asked Maura if she needed help. She declined. Mere minutes later, a police officer arrived at the scene and found the car locked, its windshield cracked, the air bags deployed—and not a soul in sight. In just those moments, Maura Murray had disappeared into the New England night.

This month marks the 10th anniversary of Maura's disappearance. At the time, the case was a national sensation. Investigators began looking for her, with search dogs combing the area in a half-mile radius around the accident and helicopters deployed overhead. The media flocked to the scene: first the local television stations and the press up from Boston, and then the national media horde. Montel Williams and Greta Van Susteren covered the story, and on February 17, eight days after the disappearance, CNN's Soledad O'Brien interviewed Maura's father, Fred Murray, and her boyfriend, Bill Rausch, who flew in from Oklahoma. Rausch told O'Brien that, while traveling, he received a voice-mail message: "I could hear only breathing and then towards the end of the voice mail, I heard what was apparent [sic] to be crying and then a whimper, which I'm certain was Maura." The number was from a prepaid calling card. Two weeks later, as leads remained elusive, the *Globe* asked, "Where Could Maura Be?" Ominously, the paper noted, "The more details are revealed, the more baffling the case becomes, police acknowledge."

By the end of fall 2004, the TV crews and newspapers were gradually fading away. Still, Fred Murray would travel to the area every weekend, pressing authorities for more answers than they could provide.

Maura's family and friends felt like they were out in the mountains alone. But they were about to get a lot more company than they ever bargained for. Maura had gone missing just as the social Web was being born, and there was a small chorus beginning to get louder in an unexpected place: Internet message boards.

For Maura Murray, the weekend prior to her disappearance had been a whirlwind. She was in the middle of her nursing program, as well as going on the clinical rotations that were part of her junior-year curriculum. She also worked as a security guard at an art gallery and in the dorms. At around 10:20 p.m. on the Thursday before she disappeared, she received a phone call, and later in her shift that night, she became so upset that her supervisor escorted her back to her dorm room.

That weekend, her father came up from his job in Connecticut to help Maura find a new car. Maura's 1996 Saturn "kind of blew a cylinder" and was "smoking something fierce," according to Fred Murray. "I said, 'You can't drive this car. The cops will pull you over in a heartbeat,'" he recalls. As a temporary fix, Fred says he suggested she put a rag inside the tailpipe to hide the smoke. He says he withdrew \$4,000 over the course of eight ATM transactions and that on that Saturday he took Maura to purchase a car in Northampton. They ended up a couple of thousand dollars short, though, so Fred figured he'd go home, round up some more money, and come back another time. Father and daughter drove back to campus and went to dinner at a brewpub in Amherst with one of Maura's friends. Later, Maura dropped off Fred at his hotel and drove his new Toyota Corolla to an on-campus party, where she drank with friends.

Maura left the party at 2:30 a.m. and headed back to Fred's hotel. At 3:30 a.m., while driving through Hadley, she crashed into a guardrail. The police showed up, but no charges were filed—and by all accounts Maura, though visibly shaken, was not given a Breathalyzer test. Close to \$10,000 worth of damage was done to the car.

Over the next couple of days, as she and her father tried to figure out the car's insurance situation, Maura started to make travel plans: Just before 1 p.m. on Monday, she called the owner of a condo rental in Bartlett, New Hampshire; she also dialed 1-800-GOSTOWE, but did not make a reservation at one of the hotels in the area. The same day, she sent an email to her boyfriend:

"I love you more stud. I got your messages, but honestly, i didn't feel like talking to much of anyone, i promise to call today though. love you,Maura"

Hours later she left him a voice mail, promising to talk. And she sent emails to her professors and supervisors, informing them—falsely—of a death in her family.

When she left her dorm room, did she hint at what lay ahead? Some reports claim she had packed her belongings and taken art off her walls—evidence, perhaps, that she was leaving for good. Her father says the floors had been cleaned over Christmas break, which explains why some of her things were still in boxes. But almost everyone agrees that Maura was planning to leave campus for at least a few nights. She withdrew \$280 from an ATM—almost all of the money in her account—and purchased, according to police, Baileys, Kahlúa, vodka, and box wine from a nearby liquor store. She checked her voice mail at 4:37 p.m., her last known call. She told no one where she was going.

On the Internet, Maura's disappearance is the perfect obsession, a puzzle of clues that offers a tantalizing illusion—if the right armchair detective connects the right dots, maybe the unsolvable can be solved. And so every day, the case attracts new recruits, analyzing and dissecting and reconstructing the details of her story with a Warren Commission–like fervor. The late-night car accident after the party. The father visiting with \$4,000 cash in his pocket. The crying episode. The box of wine. The MapQuest printout. The rag in the tailpipe.

Online sleuthing stepped into the spotlight this past April, when the FBI asked for the public's help in identifying the Boston Marathon bombers. The agency, though, was drawing on a long tradition of crowdsourcing investigations—one that stretches from Wild West wanted posters to TV's America's Most Wanted. But it was also tapping into the more recent tradition of independent, online, open-sourced sleuthing: citizen detectives, often strangers living miles or continents apart, sharing information and working in unison. The practice can lead to stunning revelations, as when crime-blogger Alexandria Goddard uncovered details of a high school rape case in Steubenville, Ohio, by screen-grabbing the tweets of partygoers. And, famously, it can lead to false accusations: Some Reddit users helped identify the brand of hats worn by one of the marathon bombers, but others famously implicated numerous innocent standers-by.

Now, at least online, it often seems as there's no such thing as a cold case. But when Maura Murray disappeared, the social Web was in its infancy. There was no YouTube and no Twitter. On the day Maura went missing, Facebook was five days old. And so you can read the history of her case as a parable about the evolution of online sleuthing. In the months after Maura vanished, one of Rausch's friends launched a site in an attempt to publicize the case. Long-gone sites like [alt.true-crime](#) and [crimenews2000.com](#) began reposting newspaper articles, as well as the standard details. In November 2004, nine months after she vanished, a second cousin of Maura's started the website [mauramurray.com](#). A Maura Murray string was even created on [justiceforchandra.com](#), a site set up to discuss the case of Washington, DC, intern Chandra Levy, who had gone missing three years earlier.

In February 2005, members of the DIY detective message board [websleuths.com](#) jumped into the fray. Anonymous posters with names like [Grassyknoll2](#) and [CyberLaw](#) attempted to piece together a time line, wondering why Maura would have partied on Saturday night, or what made her so upset at work. In 2007, pages on Facebook and MySpace were created in hopes of gathering tips. And in the Franconia city forum on the small-town message board [topix.com](#), more than 42,000 comments have been posted on a Murray thread in just the past four years.

Just as with anywhere else on the Internet, the discussion can run from constructive to abusive. Debates range from the backgrounds of the neighbors along Route 112 to whether Maura was trying to use the rag in the tailpipe to burn her car. The forums are awash with theories: Some believe she was taken by a serial killer monitoring the police scanner. Others think she faked the accident and bolted for Canada. The most obsessive even make pilgrimages to the curve on Route 112—snapping photos, taking measurements, attempting to reconstruct the accident.

Within the past year, a few users have broken off from the free-for-alls of the message boards and launched stand-alone sites with a sole focus on finding Maura. One of them, called [Not Without Peril](#), was created by Joseph Anderson, 30, an attorney from Whitman, Massachusetts, who came across Maura's case in early 2013 while researching another missing person. He became fascinated, and began commenting on sites under the pseudonym "Sam Ledyard." In the summer of 2013 he launched his own site with a few other regular commenters, naming it after the title of the book that was found in



Maura's car. In just a few months, it has racked up more than 22,000 comments, Anderson says. The contributors to the site have come to know one another, and have taken on roles—for instance, one is known for his connections on other Maura Murray sites; another is a real estate agent, adept at pulling useful info from the MLS database. Anderson spends hours per day on Maura's case. When he gets home from work, he usually hops on the computer and starts digging. "It could go on from 7 till midnight," he says.

Butch Atwood was driving his school bus back to his home just after 7 p.m. when he spotted a black Saturn stopped in the eastbound lane of Route 112, but facing west. He later told police that he pulled up beside the wreck and asked a woman fitting Maura's description if he should call for help. The woman told him no, and that she had already called AAA. That seemed strange to him, since cell-phone reception in the area was weak to nonexistent. When he reached his house—it was within view of the accident scene—he called the police anyway.

In a house steps away from the Saturn, resident Faith Westman had also called the police. She said she saw what looked like a man smoking a cigarette in the car; her husband later said it could have been a woman on a cell phone. Another neighbor said that from her kitchen window she saw the car stopped, with lights flashing, and someone walking around the vehicle.

The first police officer arrived at 7:46 p.m. He found a car, but no woman. Inside the Saturn, police later detected the smell of alcohol, and found stains on the driver's-side door and the ceiling that looked like red wine. Red liquid was found on the ground, as well as an empty soda bottle, which smelled of booze. "It was obvious that she had been drinking," says Jeff Strelzin, chief of the homicide unit at the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office and the lead prosecutor in the investigation. There was no sign of a struggle or foul play. Police found no footprints heading off the road into the woods.

As the days stretched on, Fred Murray came to feel that the police were botching the search. He was upset that the Haverhill, New Hampshire, police hadn't immediately alerted other departments along Route 112 of Maura's disappearance, that they hadn't interviewed all the residents within eyeshot of the scene, and that they waited so long to talk to the last people Maura was known to have spoken to, including the owner of the rental condo. He was even more upset when the Haverhill PD issued a press release, two days after Maura's disappearance, claiming she was "possibly suicidal." Fred, his ex-wife, Laurie, and Bill Rausch's mother, Sharon, all became increasingly, and very publicly, critical of the official investigation. (Laurie died of cancer in 2009.)

Fred claims that police gave their search dogs a new pair of gloves—found in the back seat of the car, but never worn—as a scent for Maura, instead of something that would have been more identifiable, like her running shoes. He also alleges that on the night of the accident, the police failed to search the direction Maura was headed. "I knew she was headed east," Fred says. "She was headed to Bartlett. She was up there as an infant. I remember changing her diapers in a tent up there, for Chrissakes.

"It's freezing cold out, there's a crack in the windshield, there's a potential head injury, there's arguably evidence of drinking, which would promote hypothermia. A young person. In a state of shock. You have danger. And you don't go down the street the way she was going?"

Even after a decade, Fred wants more answers about what the police were doing—or not doing—in the two days after Maura’s disappearance. This year, he’s renewing his call for the FBI to investigate the officers who conducted the original investigation.

“Fred has been a difficult person to deal with from the beginning,” Strelzin says. “I understand a lot of where he is coming from, but I feel his anger is misplaced.”

With no trust in local law enforcement, Fred welcomed volunteer citizens to join in the search. A year into the case, former New Hampshire state police lieutenant John Healy met a relative of Maura’s named Helena Murray at a conference on missing persons. Having a college-aged daughter himself, and knowing he had the tools to help, Healy organized a group of experienced private investigators and began to make trips to Route 112, even bringing cadaver dogs to the scene.

Fred Murray initially worked closely with Healy’s group. In 2005, though, he sued the state police in an attempt to make public all of the reports pertaining to the investigation. He was unsuccessful, and what’s more, Healy and his volunteers publicly disagreed with his effort. Fred says more conflicts arose, so he stopped working with them. “He shut the door on me and the whole group of volunteers ever since,” Healy says. Healy’s group is still trying to find Maura and, by his estimates, has spent thousands of hours following leads. “We’re doing this for their whole family,” Healy says.

Sometimes, even after all these years, someone thinks they’ve found a new clue.

On November 1, a man calling himself “Tom Davies” logged onto Anderson’s site and asked, “What color was Maura’s backpack?”

“Black,” was the reply. “Why do you ask?”

“I ask because about a year after Maura disappeared, I found a black backpack in the woods behind the bathrooms at the Pemigewasset Overlook.”

Davies went on to say that after he found the backpack, he informed a state trooper, but had heard nothing since. Could the backpack still be up there? “Being a father with several daughters,” Davies wrote, “I’ve been haunted by Maura’s disappearance.”

A week later, a commenter named NHRider asked, “Was the area not far from the road? I am going to take a ride up there today and look.”

An hour and a half later, NHRider posted again: “Holy Crap!! I almost crapped my pants! Tom is legit. I just got back from the Pemi overlook and I found the black backpack.”

NHRider said he contacted the authorities and gave them directions to find the backpack, which was around 30 miles from where Maura was last seen. He said he didn’t have a camera with him so he didn’t take any photos, but reported that the bag was empty and “frozen solid.” He claimed that when he went back to the scene the following day the backpack was gone, presumably taken by the cold-case unit. All Strelzin will say is that “we are aware of the backpack.” It’s impossible to know whether it was a real clue, a red herring, or part of some loony Internet game—no different from a bizarre YouTube video, featuring a bespectacled man cackling into the camera, that surfaced in 2012 on the eighth anniversary of Maura’s disappearance, but proved to be just a disturbing false lead.

Strelzin knows firsthand how citizen sleuths can solve a mystery. In 2003, he worked the case of a Concord, New Hampshire, man who kidnapped and killed his two children. Once apprehended, the man refused to divulge the location of the buried bodies, and hanged himself in his jail cell. After his death, private citizens formed search groups and traveled to the area authorities believed the children were buried. “I would communicate with some of those groups, share information, send pictures back and forth,” Strelzin says. Eventually, one of the searchers found the children’s bodies just off the highway in Hudson, Ohio.

In Maura Murray’s case, Strelzin will not say how often law enforcement monitors online forums, but concedes that the police are “aware of things that are said.” He adds that “nothing fruitful” has ever come from the DIY detectives.

“All we ask is that they do not interfere in the investigations,” Strelzin continues. “You would expect that if people had information they would contact the authorities.”

## **II. MISCELLANEOUS NEWSPAPER** **ARTICLES**

**New Hampshire Union Leader, February 12, 2004, Search under way for missing woman,  
Lorna Colquhoun**

New Hampshire Union Leader  
February 12, 2004

Search under way for missing woman  
By Lorna Colquhoun

HAVERHILL -- A search is under way for a Massachusetts woman who has not been seen since a car accident Monday night in a remote area of Woodsville. Haverhill Police Chief Jeff Williams said foul play is not suspected, but there is concern about the whereabouts of Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass. She is described as "possibly suicidal."

Yesterday, local and state police, including the state police helicopter, as well as Fish and Game conservation officers, searched the area in which Murray was last seen, but had not located her. Just before 7 p.m. Monday, Haverhill police responded to a report of a single-car accident on the sparsely populated Wild Ammonoosuc Road, where Route 112 follows the Wild Ammonoosuc River.

By the time an officer arrived, Murray's 1996 black Saturn sedan with a Massachusetts registration was abandoned. Murray is 5-foot-7 and 120 pounds, with shoulder-length brown hair and blue eyes. She was last seen wearing jeans and a dark coat. Haverhill police are asking anyone who might have seen Murray at any time since about 7 p.m. on Monday to call 787-2222.

**The New Hampshire Union Leader, February 13, 2004, Family searches northern NH for woman, Lorna Colquhoun**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
February 13, 2004

Family searches northern NH for woman  
By Lorna Colquhoun

Haverhill, NH -- A worried family fanned out across northern New Hampshire yesterday in search of a young woman who vanished after a minor car accident Monday night.

Maura Murray, 21, a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, has not been seen since her car went off Route 112 Monday in the Wild Ammonoosuc area of Woodsville. Witnesses called police after the accident, but she disappeared before an officer arrived. A search followed that night, but there was no sign of Murray. On Wednesday, local and state police, including the state police helicopter and Fish and Game conservation officers, searched the remote area of Route 112, but found no sign of her.

"This is very unusual" said Fred Murray, her father. "It's not like her to just take off."

Family members, including her brothers and sister, as well as her boyfriend, Bill Rausch, who flew in from Oklahoma when she was reported missing, fanned out from Haverhill to Lincoln, across the Kancamagus Highway to Conway and Bartlett, putting up flyers along the way, in the hope that someone may have seen her in the days since Monday. Their search has been concentrated in the White Mountains, since Murray and her family have vacationed in the Lincoln and Conway areas for years.

"We went to every spot we thought she might go to hotels and motels and put up flyers," Bill Rausch said. But so far, their efforts have come up empty. The only thing they do have to go on is a call Bill Rausch received on cell phone after he flew back to Massachusetts late Tuesday.

There was just someone breathing on the other end, and the number was unknown, said Bill Rausch, who is planning to ask Murray to marry him. "I tried calling the number back, but it turned out to be a (number for a) phone card." Police were attempting to track down from where the card may have come, he said.

Haverhill police Chief Jeff Williams said Wednesday that there doesn't appear to be foul play involved. Her family surmises that since there was a lack of footprints near her car, she may have taken a ride with someone. Fred Murray said he wants to tell his daughter that whatever is troubling her, it's nothing that can't be worked out.

"I don't know what the matter is, or the trouble you think you might be in, he said, but it isn't anything we can't solve. It's me you can tell me. We will work it out until we solve it."

The family hopes that the hundreds of flyers they've put up in the past two days will provide some leads for them to pursue. "We just want to spread the word around and ask anyone who may have seen her to please call us," Fred Murray said.

Murray is described as being 5-feet, 7 inches tall, 120 pounds, with shoulder length brown hair and blue eyes. She was last seen wearing jeans and a dark jacket.

Anyone with information is asked to call Haverhill police at 787-2222.

**Boston Herald/Nashua Telegraph, February 13, 2004, Mass. woman missing after N.H. car crash**

Boston Herald/Nashua Telegraph

February 13, 2004

Mass. woman missing after N.H. car crash

HAVERHILL, N. H. - Police were looking for a Massachusetts woman last seen Monday at a one-car accident. Police said Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass., was last seen on Ammonoosuc Road in the Woodsville neighborhood of Haverhill, where she had crashed her car.

They said she appeared uninjured and left before emergency personnel arrived.



**The Caledonian-Record, February 13, 2004, Family Members, Fiance Seek Help In Finding Woman, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
February 13, 2004

Family Members, Fiance Seek Help In Finding Woman  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Fred Murray has issued a plea to his 21-year-old daughter to contact him so they can work together on straightening out what is troubling her. Murray met with reporters in Bethlehem Thursday night after he and family members scoured parts of New Hampshire from Haverhill to Conway and Bethlehem for his daughter, Maura.

"Maura, this is me ... like always, we will solve this," he said in a plea to his daughter through the media. Maura, who is 5 feet, 7 inches tall and weighs about 120 pounds, was involved in a one-car accident on Wild Ammonoosuc Road about 7 p.m. Monday night.

When officers arrived at the scene, they found an abandoned black 1996 Saturn bearing Massachusetts plates. Police determined the car belonged to Maura Murray and searched the area, but were unable to turn up anything.

Witnesses who saw the accident told police they had seen a lone woman. They also said it didn't appear the woman had been injured in the accident. When they asked if she needed help or the police, she reportedly said, "No." She left the scene before police and EMS arrived. Police said Maura may be suicidal and headed toward the Kancamagus Highway area.

Fred Murray said he doesn't understand what prompted his daughter to leave the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, where she is a nursing student, to drive to New Hampshire. He said it's very unusual for her just to take off. He said he had seen her Sunday afternoon and didn't suspect anything was wrong.

"I don't know exactly what you think is the matter," Murray said, again pleading to his daughter. "It isn't anything that can't be easily solved." Murray did say Maura was upset about something that had happened over the weekend. He also said whatever it was wasn't a big deal. Shivering in a light coat as he spoke about his daughter, Murray said he didn't know she was missing until another one of his children, Kathleen, called him Tuesday from Maura's apartment.

Haverhill police officers, he said, had called Maura's home. He made the trip to Haverhill, N.H., in the middle of the night. Joining Murray in speaking with reporters in Bethlehem Thursday night was Bill Rausch, who is a second lieutenant with C Battery, 119th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. Rausch said he flew out first thing Wednesday morning. When asked how he is connected to Maura, he said, "Well, her father didn't know this, but we are engaged to be engaged."

Rausch said they have been dating for several years. He also said he had spoken to Maura Sunday and as recently as Monday morning. She did not seem to be upset about anything when he spoke to her. "Everything seemed fine," he said.

While he was at the airport waiting to catch a flight out of Oklahoma, Rausch said he received a call on his cell phone in which all he heard was someone breathing. The call, he said, was traced to a calling card. "We have talked to the chief," he said, referring to Haverhill Police Chief Jeffery Williams, "and he said they have no leads. They have stopped the search."

That bothers both Murray and Rausch. They have been told police are waiting for another lead. "Our concern," Murray said, "is getting the word out from one police department to another police department. In the meantime, we are trying to spread the word."

And that doesn't mean just law enforcement agencies in New Hampshire. They both believe Vermont and New Hampshire police agencies should be working together on this. "That community lies right on the border," he said, referring to Haverhill. "Vermont could be helping out."

When Murray was asked why Maura had driven up to New Hampshire and may be headed toward the Kancamagus Highway area, he said the family had been visiting the area for several years to camp. "It's very familiar," he said.

Rausch and Murray spent Wednesday and Thursday handing out dozens of flyers with a picture of Maura and information describing her.

They are asking anyone who has seen Maura to contact the New Hampshire State Police at 603-846-3333 or 603-271-1170. People can also call the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222. Rausch and family members plan to extend their search into Vermont Friday.

**Boston Herald, February 14, 2004, Relatives searching for college student missing after crash, Eric Convey**

Boston Herald  
February 14, 2004  
Page: 17

Relatives searching for college student missing after crash  
By Eric Convey

Relatives of a missing Hanson college student are descending on the area around Swift Water Village, N.H., to help find the one-time star athlete who disappeared after crashing her new car into a snowbank Monday. "This is very unusual," said Fred Murray, father of Maura Murray, 21. "It's not like her to just take off."

Meanwhile, Haverhill, N.H., police said they have ended the search of the area where Murray crashed the car but continue to investigate her disappearance. A witness said she emerged from her car uninjured and disappeared when the witness left to call police.

"We are concerned for her personal welfare. There is no evidence of foul play," police Chief Jeff Williams said yesterday. "Our concern is that she's upset or suicidal, something the family was concerned about," Williams said.

Murray's family and her Army lieutenant boyfriend have been passing out fliers with information about her in New Hampshire and in Vermont. The area is one she knows well, having vacationed there many years with her parents.

A standout athlete in high school, Murray studied at West Point before leaving the military academy and pursuing nursing studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

**Boston Globe, February 15, 2004, A student vanishes, and none knows why - Woman who left crash had planned a getaway, Peter DeMarco**

Boston Globe  
February 15, 2004

A student vanishes, and none knows why - Woman who left crash had planned a getaway  
By Peter DeMarco

Six days have passed since college student Maura Murray crashed her car on a rural highway in northern New Hampshire and disappeared without a trace. But as family, friends, and investigators continue their search for the 21-year-old Hanson native, two questions continue to baffle them: Where was Murray going, and what was she running from?

A junior in the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's nursing program, Murray was doing well in school. She had a dedicated boyfriend, a loving family, and close friends. Her father, Frederick, had just told her he wanted to buy her a new car.

But on Monday, Murray apparently decided she needed to get away from life for a while. In short order, she withdrew a few hundred dollars from an ATM machine, packed her cellphone wall charger and her favorite stuffed monkey into her Saturn, e-mailed her professors to tell them she wouldn't be in class all week, and headed north for the White Mountains. Whatever her intended destination was, she never made it there in her car.

At about 7 that night, while taking a sharp turn on Wild Ammonoosuc Road in Woodsville, N.H., Murray lost control and slammed into a snow bank. Shaken by the accident, and apparently intoxicated, Murray told a witness she didn't need help, local police said. The witness went to call the police and by the time they arrived Murray was gone.

Using tracking dogs, helicopters, and trained searchers, local and state police, as well as state fish and game officials, covered nearly 20 miles along Route 112, but found no trace of Murray's footprints in the snow. The tracking dogs lost her scent within 100 feet of the accident, leading investigators and her loved ones to believe she either hitched a ride and continued on her way, or was abducted.

"We're all under the assumption that since the trail sort of falls off someone picked her up. We really hope she doesn't quite understand how many people have been looking for her," said high school friend Carly Muise. "Maybe if she doesn't realize that, the person who gave her a ride will and will come forward." Murray, a former top student and track star at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School, is described by friends and family as a responsible, attractive young woman who is very close to her family, in particular her father, who spend yesterday checking bus stations in New Hampshire and Vermont for any signs of her.

A self-reliant woman, Murray toughed out three semesters as a chemical engineer at the US Military Academy at West Point before deciding the Army wasn't for her. Since transferring to the University of Massachusetts, she has been a successful student in the nursing program, said dean Eileen Breslin. "Nursing students are very responsible. That's part of her character," said Breslin.

If Murray was troubled by something, family and friends said, it might have been a small car accident she got into last Saturday night, when she damaged her father's new Toyota. The day after the accident, she called her boyfriend, Army Lieutenant Bill Rausch, who is stationed in Oklahoma, in tears. A day later, on Monday, she got into her Saturn and headed north.

Rausch, who got a leave of absence from the Army, arrived in New Hampshire on Thursday. Joined by his parents, who drove from Ohio, and by Murray's father and some of her siblings, Rausch has spent the past few days driving across both New Hampshire and Vermont, stopping at local gas stations, bus stations, and police headquarters, asking whether anyone has seen Murray.

Yesterday morning, Rausch and his father were told that Murray might have been at a McDonald's in St. Johnsbury, Vt. They drove there, but no one had seen her. "Obviously, we're hoping for the best. If I just got some news, although I guess no news is good news," Rausch said. Rausch said Murray fled with a backpack, but left many of the other items she'd packed, including the stuffed monkey he gave her and her favorite book, "Without Peril," behind in her car.

A witness told local police Murray appeared to have been intoxicated at the time of the crash, and Rausch said that there was an open bottle of alcohol in the car. However, he said he'd never known Murray to drink and drive, and guessed she might have fled out of fear she'd broken the law.

Breslin, UMass's nursing dean, said Murray had e-mailed a professor on Monday indicating she needed to take time off because of a "family problem" and will return to class this week. Her family and friends, have since spend hours plastering missing posters and calling news agencies to get her picture and story out.

"I'm hoping someone will see her and call someone to let us know she's all right. We're just sitting on eggshells waiting for that," said Laurie Murray, Murray's mother, a nurse at the Samuel Marcus Nursing Home in Weymouth. New Hampshire State Police have posted her photo on national missing persons databases, and have promised to follow any leads. So far, they have none.

"It's a difficult one," said Sgt. Robert Bruno, detective supervisor. "I wish I has more to tell you."

**Boston Herald, February 16, 2004, Missing woman's dad: Searchers waited, Marie Szaniszlo**

Boston Herald  
February 16, 2004

Missing woman's dad: Searchers waited  
By Marie Szaniszlo

Police in New Hampshire waited 36 hours before launching a full-scale search for a University of Massachusetts nursing student who vanished last week after crashing into a snowbank, according to the woman's father.

"I'm getting more scared by the hour," Maura Murray's father, Frederick, said yesterday from a motel near the Vermont state line. "Time could be running out for her. People just don't vanish." Haverhill police and paramedics looked for the 21-year-old Hanson, Mass., native shortly after 7 p.m. Feb. 9, when an elderly couple reported that a car had crashed near their home on a sharp turn on Route 112.

But it was not until two days later that a state police helicopter, search-and-rescue dogs and New Hampshire Fish and Game officials began an intensive search because Haverhill police assumed she was likely a drunken driver who had left the scene, they told Frederick Murray. A witness whose help she declined told police she appeared to be intoxicated, and a bottle of alcohol was found in her car. Tracking dogs ultimately lost her scent within 100 feet of the accident, leading investigators to believe she hitched a ride.

Since then, Murray's family, her boyfriend and his parents have driven from New Hampshire to Vermont to Maine, distributing fliers with her photograph and a plea for anyone with information about her whereabouts to call state police. Until then, why she left remains as much a mystery as where she went. A star athlete who majored in engineering at West Point for three semesters, Murray transferred in 2002 to UMass-Amherst, where she regularly made the dean's list.

Last Thursday, she received an "upsetting" phone call at the art gallery where she worked, her father said, but he did not know what it concerned. That Saturday, she got into an accident with his car, and called her boyfriend Sunday in tears. The next day she sent three e-mails: one to her boyfriend saying she wanted to talk and the others to a professor and the gallery saying she would be away for the next week to resolve some "family concerns."

Then she withdrew a few hundred dollars at an ATM and left for the White Mountains.

## **WCAX, February 16, 2004, Search Continues For Missing Woman Family - Friends Find No Sign Of Woman Missing For Week**

WCAX

February 16, 2004

Search Continues For Missing Woman  
Family, Friends Find No Sign Of Woman Missing For Week

Bath, N.H. -- Family and friends continued to search Monday for a Massachusetts woman missing for one week after a car accident. Maura Murray, 21, was last seen following a car accident in Woodsville, N.H. Police said there is no evidence of foul play, but they are treating it as a missing-person investigation and said they have no new information.

Murray was last seen on Route 112, and as her father searched the roadway Monday, he said that he needs to stay focused on finding her. "I don't want to go back without her," Fred Murray said. "I can't face the ride going back in an empty car."

Maura Murray's boyfriend, Bill Rausch, was also searching again Monday. Her family and friends said they don't know what else to do. They've covered a 50-mile radius from Woodsville with posters, but police said there is still no sign of her. Her father believes she's no longer in the area.

"I think she accepted a ride at the scene of the accident, which would enable her to get closer to public transportation, and she got out by bus," Fred Murray said. Family members can't say why Murray would have wandered away. She left her University of Massachusetts dorm last Monday, e-mailing her professors that she'd be gone for a week. She didn't tell her parents or boyfriend what she planned.

"If she could've, she would've contacted me, so I think she's being held against her will," Fred Murray said. "I'm afraid to think of what could've happened." Murray's relatives said they are not giving up hope and plan to stay in the area as long as it takes to find her. Police urged anyone who might have seen her to call them at (603) 846-3333.

**The Patriot Ledger, February 16, 2004, Hanson woman, 21, still missing after crash,  
Elizabeth Smallcomb**

The Patriot Ledger  
February 16, 2004

Hanson woman, 21, still missing after crash  
By Elizabeth Smallcomb

HANSON - Family members and friends are anxiously awaiting news about the whereabouts of Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, who disappeared after her car crashed in northern New Hampshire.

"I haven't heard a word," her mother, Laurie Murray, said yesterday after talking to police in New Hampshire. Maura Murray, a junior nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, was in a single-vehicle accident last Monday on Route 112 in Woodsville, N.H. She refused help and walked away from the accident scene.

Friends and family describe Murray as intelligent and responsible, and they say it is uncharacteristic for her to have no contact with family. Elizabeth Drewniak of Hanson, a close friend, said that after talking with Murray's family and boyfriend, all indications are that something made Murray decide she needed to get away.

Murray's father, Frederick; her brothers, Frederick and Kurtis; her sister, Kathleen; and her boyfriend, Army Lt. William Rausch of Oklahoma, are distributing fliers in New Hampshire near the Vermont border. Police in New Hampshire called off their search after three days without any leads. They are investigating cell phone and debit card records, hoping they lead to Murray.

Haverhill, N.H., Police Chief Jeff Williams said last week that no evidence of foul play was found.

Maura Murray was an honors student and one of the top cross-country and track-and-field runners in the state during her years at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School, from which she graduated in 2000. She continued running at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where she studied for three semesters before transferring to UMass to study nursing.



## **CNN American Morning, February 17, 2004, Mystery Disappearance**

CNN - American Morning  
February 17, 2004  
Mystery Disappearance

SOLEDAD O'BRIEN, CNN ANCHOR: The disappearance of a Massachusetts nursing student has her family, her friends and police now searching for answers. Twenty-one-year-old Maura Murray was last seen a week ago, after her car crashed on a rural highway in northern New Hampshire. Despite a frantic search, Maura's trail seems to have vanished. Joining us this morning from a motel in Wells River, Vermont, which has now become a home base for the searchers, Maura's father, Fred Murray, and her boyfriend, Army Lieutenant Bill Rausch.

Thank you for joining us, gentlemen, both of you. I appreciate it. I know this is such a strained and difficult story. Lieutenant Rausch, I'd like to start with you. The details are bizarre. Maura disappeared on Monday under very strange circumstances. Why don't you describe what you know about what happened?

LT. BILL RAUSCH, U.S. ARMY, MISSING WOMAN'S BOYFRIEND: Well, as far as we know, we are not exactly sure what did happen. However, I did receive a phone call from Maura as well as an e-mail Monday afternoon that said that she wanted to talk with me and for me to call her back. I received Tuesday morning last week right after the accident another voice mail, a chilling voice mail that was what I believed to be Maura whimpering and crying in the background.

O'BRIEN: Did she say anything in that message, anything specific? Or was it only what you can hear was crying?

RAUSCH: I could only hear breathing, and then towards the end of the voice mail I heard what was apparent to be crying and then a whimper, which I'm certain was Maura.

O'BRIEN: Mr. Murray, let's back up a little bit. Maura had taken some money out of the ATM, had e-mailed her professor saying that she was going to miss some classes because of a family situation, and gotten in her car and headed north. Does anyone have any idea where she was headed, where she was going?

FRED MURRAY, FATHER OF MISSING STUDENT: We think because of the general direction she was traveling that she was going to an area that she's familiar with, which would be up in the White Mountains where we used to camp and hike. But the whole thing came on so suddenly that I know the night before she had no such plans. I spoke to her, and she was due to talk to me Monday night, but I don't think she was able to.

O'BRIEN: Was it typical at all for her to throw stuff in a car and say, hey, you know, I'm going to get out of town for a couple of days and just, you know, make a snap decision like that overnight? Or would that be very unusual for her?

MURRAY: She had never done it before, and no one that knows her can explain it. She's a very dependable kid, and she follows through on what she says she's going to do. And, again, I don't think that she was able to in this case.

O'BRIEN: She called you on a voice mail, Lieutenant Rausch, after this accident, and a local person stopped to help her, and she kind of waved them off. They say maybe she had been drinking even, but waved them off and said, no, no, no, I'm fine, I'm fine. She had sort of plowed into a little bit of a snow bank. Give me a sense of what the locals have been able to tell you about what happened after that, the last person who saw her, because other people saw her around the car, isn't that right?

RAUSCH: Yes. In fact, according to the local authorities, as well as eyewitnesses, Maura was seen at the vehicle not more than a minute before the authorities arrived at the scene, which leads us to believe that she was either picked up by an individual immediately after eyewitnesses saw her, or she walked up the road and was picked up then. The police themselves conducted a very thorough search with the Fish and Game folks here in the area, and with a dog scent leading only a few hundred feet from the accident and abruptly stopping, which again suggests that someone did, in fact, pick her up.

O'BRIEN: So, with her professor saying that nursing students are notoriously reliable young people, what do you think has happened? Do you think that there has been foul play at all? Do you think, especially in light of this phone message that you have of crying and whimpering, do you have any theories on what might have happened to Maura?

RAUSCH: Well, we're uncertain obviously of exactly did happen. But as Fred said, this is completely out of character in regard to her not being able to contact us. She had planned to call Fred that evening, her father. She had planned on calling me, wanted me to return her phone call. And if she were able to do so, we are 100 percent certain that she would have done exactly that.

O'BRIEN: Well, we're showing her picture, and we're certainly hopeful that if anybody has seen her or anyone has any information about Maura Murray that they will get in touch with you immediately. Obviously lots of people are worried about the status of this young woman. Thank you for talking with us this morning. We certainly we wish you the best of luck in your search.

RAUSCH: Thank you.

MURRAY: Thank you.

**The New Hampshire Union Leader, February 17, 2004, Search for missing Mass. woman goes on**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
February 17, 2004

Search for missing Mass. woman goes on

HAVERHILL (AP) -- There still is no sign of the young Massachusetts woman last seen in northern New Hampshire on Feb. 9. State police said they have received many new leads, but they have turned up little information.

Friends and relatives of Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson have plastered the Haverhill area with posters, hoping for a tip to lead them to the woman. Murray withdrew \$280 from a Massachusetts ATM early last week, and e-mailed professors saying she wouldn't be in class all week to attend to a family problem.

The woman was last seen after being involved in a minor car crash. Police say they have no reason to suspect foul play.

**Boston Globe, February 17, 2004, With no word from missing student, family's hopes dim - Kin of 21-year-old suspect foul play, Ralph Ranalli**

Boston Globe  
February 17, 2004

With no word from missing student, family's hopes dim - Kin of 21-year-old suspect foul play  
By Ralph Ranalli

For all the questions torturing relatives of University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student Maura Murray, one thing is increasingly certain. The fact that she has not contacted them in more than a week since disappearing from a rural New Hampshire roadside, they say, means something is terribly wrong. Murray's father, mother, and boyfriend said yesterday they now believe and fear that the 21-year-old Hanson native is a victim of foul play.

"She is just a skinny, little girl, and I am getting more scared by the hour," Frederick Murray, Maura's father, said in a telephone interview from Woodsville, N.H., where his daughter disappeared Feb. 9 after crashing her Saturn into a snowbank.

Relatives have been searching in and around the small towns near the Vermont border where Maura Murray vanished, posting fliers and interviewing witnesses. As best they can determine, Murray got a ride from someone in a car shortly before police arrived at the accident scene on Wild Ammonoosuc Road, said her boyfriend, US Army Lieutenant William Rausch.

No one saw her do so, but residents on the street saw her standing on the road before police arrived, and search dogs lost her scent less than 100 yards from her wrecked car, Rausch said. "It seems apparent that she most certainly jumped in a vehicle," Rausch said. "An older couple who lives here put her at [the Saturn] one minute before the police arrived."

Given the preparations Murray had apparently made for a trip, relatives had hoped for much of the last week that she may have wanted to be by herself or that she was too embarrassed to call home after crashing a second car in three days.

At the time she left Amherst, relatives said, Murray had been upset that she had crashed her father's car two days earlier. Before heading north toward the White Mountains, Murray withdrew a few hundred dollars from an ATM machine, packed her cellphone wall charger and her favorite stuffed monkey into her Saturn, and e-mailed her professors to tell them she would not be in class all week because of a "family problem."

But with each passing day, hopes that she abandoned her car, hitched a ride, and continued her journey are fading, her mother said. It would be out of character for her daughter not to call, her mother said. "She knows I'm a worrier," Laurie Murray of Weymouth said.

Also out of character, family members said, were reports from witnesses that Murray appeared to be intoxicated just after the crash. Murray, a former top student and track standout at Whitman-

Hanson Regional High School, is described by friends and family as a responsible young woman who is very close to her family, particularly her father.

She spent three semesters as a chemical engineer at the US Military Academy at West Point before transferring to the nursing program at UMass.

New Hampshire State Police have opened a missing-person investigation into Murray's disappearance and posted her photo on a national law enforcement database. A spokesman said yesterday there were no new developments in the case.

**Boston Herald, February 18, 2004, FBI offers to help search for missing woman in N.H.,  
Marie Szaniszlo**

Boston Herald  
February 18, 2004  
Page 12

FBI offers to help search for missing woman in N.H.  
By Marie Szaniszlo

The FBI has offered to help investigate the case of a University of Massachusetts nursing student who vanished in the White Mountains nine days ago. But local New Hampshire authorities so far have declined the bureau's help, the woman's family and friends said yesterday. Gail Marcinkiewicz, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Boston, said the bureau has offered to help search for 21-year-old Maura Murray of Hanson, Mass., who disappeared after her car slid into a snowbank on Route 112 in Woodsville, N.H., on Feb. 9.

But friends who have spent the last week scouring two states for the former West Point cadet said Chief Jeffrey Williams, one of the Haverhill Police Department's two officers, said he would welcome the FBI's help - if he needed it. "All we're asking is to find Maura," said Christine McDonald, who joined the search last week with her husband, a West Point professor. "And if the local authorities don't have the forces to work daily and with more than a couple of officers, the FBI has to get involved. It's been too long already."

Williams has not returned phone calls from reporters this week and has reprimanded Murray's family and friends for talking to the media and attempting to find her, searchers have said. "We've been walking a tightrope not to upset these people," said one woman, who asked not to be identified.

Police waited until last Wednesday morning, 36 hours after she vanished, before launching a full-scale search. Dogs lost her scent 100 yards from her car.

## **Journal Opinion, February 18, 2004, Woman still missing after snowbank accident**

Journal Opinion  
February 18, 2004  
Pages 1 & 12

### **Woman still missing after snowbank accident**

WOODSVILLE -- It has been one week since Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, MA, crashed her car into a snowbank on Route 112 in Swiftwater and refused assistance by local residents. She has not been seen since.

At approximately 7 p.m. on Feb. 9, Haverhill Police Sgt. Cecil Smith responded to a reported one-vehicle accident on Wild Ammonoosuc Road (Route 112). He found the 1996 black Saturn abandoned by Murray. Witnesses who spoke to Murray reported that she appeared intoxicated but unhurt and refused assistance. She left the accident scene before police arrived.

A search of the area was conducted by the Haverhill Police Department, New Hampshire Fish and Game, New Hampshire State Police from Troop F and a state police helicopter. As of Feb. 14, the Haverhill Police had called off the search for Murray, but the investigation continues.

The Lincoln and Conway regions reportedly are well known to the Murray family and the missing girl. The family has vacationed in the area for years. Family Members from Massachusetts, Murray's boyfriend, Bill Rausch, from Oklahoma, and his parents from Ohio have searched the length of the Kancamagus highway in hopes of finding her. They have posted fliers with Murray's picture at hotels and stores throughout the area. Family members are hoping that she took a ride with someone as there were few footprints near the car.

The father of the missing girl, Fred Murray, said he was concerned that the girl is troubled and possibly suicidal. A phone call to Rausch, on Feb. 10, is the only possible lead. When Rausch answered the call there was only breathing on the other end. The call made to Rausch's cell phone was dialed using a phone card. Police are attempting to track the origin of the card.

Murray is a white female with brown shoulder-length hair and blue eyes, approximately 5'7" tall and weighing 120 pounds. She was last seen wearing jeans and a dark-colored coat. The Haverhill Police Department asks that anyone who has seen Murray contact them at (603) 787-2222.

**Burlington Free Press / Lowell Sun / The New Hampshire Union Leader / Portsmouth Herald / Caledonian Record, Wednesday, February 18, 2004**

The Associated Press

The investigation into the disappearance of a Massachusetts woman last seen more than a week ago in northern New Hampshire has become stagnant, the woman's father said yesterday. "There's no new leads, no new evidence," Frederick Murray said of the search for Maura Murray, a 21-year-old nursing student who disappeared after a car accident in Woodsville, N.H. "It's stagnant at the moment."

He blamed the lack of leads on a shortage of resources, saying that though local police were working hard, he wished the small department had more help so it could broaden its search. "Results are slow in coming. Like the bus stations. Did she leave from a local bus station? That hasn't been investigated, so I did it myself," Mr. Murray said, adding that his efforts turned up nothing.

"The police are good guys," he said. "But there aren't many of them." Authorities said Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts student from Hanson, Mass., withdrew \$280 from an ATM on Feb. 9 and emailed professors saying she wouldn't be in class all week because of a family problem.

Around 7 p.m. that evening she crashed her car into a snowbank on Route 112 in New Hampshire several miles from the Vermont border. Police say a witness offered help, but that Murray refused and told the witness not to call police. The witness, who later told police Murray appeared intoxicated but uninjured at the time, called authorities anyway. But by the time emergency workers arrived, Murray was gone. Most of her belongings were left behind in the car.

On Feb. 11 a police dog was brought to the scene, but was able to track her for only 100 yards, prompting her family to conclude that she got a ride. A police helicopter and ground search also turned up no evidence.

Mr. Murray said yesterday that his daughter may have been distraught at the time, in part because just two days earlier she had been involved in another accident. Police described Maura Murray as "endangered and possibly suicidal." Since then, Maura Murray's family, her boyfriend and his family have come to area to help in the search and hand posters through out New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

Mr. Murray no longer believes his daughter is in the area, adding to his frustration that the police lack the resources to do more. Mr. Murray is convinced foul play is involved, thought authorities have yet to find evidence of it. Still, he holds out hope that perhaps she just needed to get away.

He wants the FBI to get involved, but was told there needs to be evidence of foul play first.

**\*\*Burlington Free Press from below. \*\***

"But you can't get evidence because you don't have the force enough to go out there and get it." he added "Do you wait until you have a body to have evidence and you can call the FBI in? Isn't it possible to expand a little and pound a little harder?" A spokeswoman for the Haverhill Police



Department which is handling the case, would not comment except to say that the investigation was ongoing.

"Just tell us you're OK," he urged her. "Don't come back if you don't want to. Just tell us you're OK. ... She would if she could but I don't think she is able to, for whatever reason that is."

**The Caledonian-Record, February 18, 2004, Missing Woman - Police Chasing Regionwide Leads, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
February 18, 2004

Missing Woman  
Police Chasing Regionwide Leads  
By Gary E. Lindsley

HAVERHILL NEW HAMPSHIRE - Haverhill police officers and detectives from New Hampshire State Police Troop F are receiving leads from all points in New England regarding a missing 21-year-old Massachusetts woman.

"This search has gone nationwide," Haverhill Police Chief Jeffery Williams said in a phone conversation late Tuesday afternoon. Williams' four-person police department, which includes himself, has been investigating the disappearance of Maura Murray of Hanson, Mass. They, along with detectives from Troop F, have been receiving leads from all over New England.

Murray is 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs about 120 pounds and has long dark brown hair and blue eyes. She was involved in a one-car accident about 7 p.m. Feb. 9. Her car failed to negotiate a sharp curve and went off the road. Her father, Fred Murray, said it was a minor accident.

A resident who lives near the accident scene told police Murray was asked if she wanted police or emergency medical services called. She reportedly said no. That was the last time anyone has seen the young woman, who reportedly crashed her father's vehicle two days before she crashed her own car, a black 1996 Saturn bearing Massachusetts plates.

According to police, Murray was not injured in the accident. However, she was reportedly impaired due to alcohol consumption when she was seen by her car after her accident. Williams said his department has received a number of calls in connection with Murray's disappearance, but he will not comment on them because of the ongoing investigation.

The person who saw Murray after the accident also was at the scene when officers arrived. Williams wouldn't comment concerning what the witness had said about Murray's disappearance between the time of the accident and the time officers arrived.

"We don't know if someone picked her up," Williams said. "We are certainly concerned about that (possibility). We are getting leads from all over New England. It's a national investigation at this point." Maura's father and her fiance, Bill Rausch, who is a second lieutenant with C Battery, 119th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla., have been joined by relatives and friends in their search for the 21-year-old woman. She is a student in the University of Massachusetts nursing program at Amherst.

They have been scouring areas on both sides of the Connecticut River, hoping to find someone who may have seen Maura or have information as to what happened to her after the accident.

Williams said although a search for her was called off last week, the investigation is continuing. He said New Hampshire Fish and Game is in charge of searches. "I don't see a need for a search until we have a (solid) lead," Williams said. In addition to officers from his department, and detectives, including Sgt. Bob Bruno from Troop F, Vermont State Police also are playing a part in the investigation.

Williams said information about Murray as been entered into the National Crime Information Center computer systems. Anyone who has seen Murray is asked to contact the New Hampshire State Police at 603-846-3333 or 603-271-1170. People also can call the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

## **WCAX, February 19, 2004, Police Suspend Search for Missing Woman**

WCAX

February 19, 2004

### **Police Suspend Search for Missing Woman**

Haverhill, New Hampshire - Police used a helicopter and scent dogs to search two square miles of the wooded area where 21-year-old Maura Murray was last seen. But still, no sign of the missing college student.

"We were not able to come up with any conclusive clues for us to continue," said Lt. Todd Bogardus of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Police say Murray told her employer she'd be gone for a week to deal with some family issues. She drove to New Hampshire and crashed her car on this sharp curve on Route 112 in Haverhill. She told witnesses she did not want help and took off before police arrived, leaving her car behind.

"This is unprecedented. She's not irresponsible. For her not to call, means to me she is not able to call, and that frightens me," says Fred Murray, Maura's father. Maura's family and friends have plastered her picture on 1,500 posters all over New Hampshire and Vermont, hoping someone has seen her.

"The way we're getting through is the same way we want Maura to get through, just not giving up. We're not giving up and we don't want her to give up," says Bill Rausch, Maura's boyfriend. The search party has taken over a Wells River motel, looking for leads, waiting and hoping. They say they're frustrated Maura was last seen on February 9th, but police didn't start looking for her until February 11th, 36 hours later.

"This is a rural area, not many people, not much crime, so when something big comes up, it's a strain on the capabilities of the local police," says Fred Murray.

Police stress that even though their formal search has ended, this case is still very much open. They want to hear from anyone who may have seen Maura Murray.

## **The Boston Channel, February 19, 2004, Police, Family Search For Missing Woman - Woman Disappears After Car Crash**

The Boston Channel  
February 19, 2004

Police, Family Search For Missing Woman  
Woman Disappears After Car Crash

HAVERHILL, N.H. -- Police and relatives in Grafton County are searching for a Massachusetts woman who disappeared after a car crash.

Maura Murray, 21, hasn't been seen since Monday night, when she crashed her 1996 black Saturn on Route 112 in the Woodsville neighborhood of Haverhill. Police arrived at the scene to find her car but no sign of the University of Massachusetts student. A witness reported seeing Murray looking impaired the night of the accident. "She might be afraid she might get in trouble, but we just want to let her know it is fine," said her sister, Kathleen Murray. "We just want her to come home." Police said they were able to find few clues at the scene of the accident.

"We did an intense search of the crash scene area for evidence that she may have walked into the woods, but nothing like that was uncovered," Police Chief Jeff Williams said. Haverhill police have been working with state police and the Fish and Game Department to find Murray while her family and friends have been driving around the region posting signs hoping someone may give them a clue to where she is. "I feel badly for the family and hope that she is OK," resident Winnie Matteson said.

Searchers are canvassing an area from Haverhill along the Kancamagus Highway to North Conway. The area is like a second home to Murray. She has come to the region with her family since she was a child. Relatives said they believe Murray may have been upset about something. "We love her. She is the best," Kathleen Murray said. "She has a lot of family and friends. We love her. We just want to see her come home safe."

Maura Murray is described as 5 feet, 7 inches, weighing 120 pounds, with shoulder-length, brown hair. She was last seen wearing jeans and a dark coat. Anyone with any information on the case is asked to contact police at (603) 787-2222.

## **The Patriot Ledger, February 20, 2004, FBI seeking clues to disappearance from Hanson family, Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger  
February 20, 2004

FBI seeking clues to disappearance from Hanson family  
By Joe McGee

Boston FBI agents have joined in the search for Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts student from Hanson who disappeared more than a week ago after an accident on a snowy New Hampshire road. New Hampshire search and rescue teams, meanwhile, made one last attempt at searching the mountainous, rural area of Route 112 in Woodsville, N.H., where the 21-year-old was last seen on Feb. 9.

For reasons that remain unclear, Murray had driven to northern New Hampshire that day from the UMass campus in Amherst, where she went to school. Authorities have suggested from the information they have that Murray may have run away and doesn't want to be found, while family members say she may have been kidnapped.

The terrain in the area where she was last seen is rough and wooded, and the National Forest Service has warned that anyone lost there in the winter cold could perish. Police, however, said they still consider Murray a missing person, while they don't believe foul play was involved in her disappearance.

"What we asked the FBI to do was to do a background investigation, talking to family members, so hopefully we can generate ideas as to what she was thinking or where she was going. Other than that, we're doing all we can," Lt. John Scarinza, commander of New Hampshire State Police Troop F, said.

According to police, sometime before Feb. 9, Murray downloaded directions to Burlington, Vt., from her dorm room computer. She sent an E-mail to her professors and place where she work saying she needed a week off because of "family problems," and left Amherst with \$280 cash and a few personal items.

At about 7 p.m. on Feb. 9, the car she was driving hit a snow bank in Woodsville, a town near the Vermont border on Route 112, which locals call Wild Ammonoosuc Road. She refused help from bystanders and was gone when police in the rural town arrived. At the accident scene, there were no footprints left in the snow and bloodhounds could not pick up her scent. While there may be clues suggesting Murray wanted time alone and away from campus, family members believe someone picked her up from the accident scene. Running away isn't like Maura, they said.

"She would've contacted someone, her boyfriend or someone. I can't see her running away. She knows how I worry," Lauri Murray, Maura's mother, said.

The only personal problem Murray had recently was that the accident was the second vehicle accident she had had in three days. Friends said little things like that might set off a focused person like Maura, a former standout athlete and honors student at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School who attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for a year. "Top notch. She was one of my brightest students," said John Souther, Murray's advanced placement calculus teacher at Whitman-Hanson.

Souther offered to help family members search in New Hampshire this week, one of many who have called the family to lend their support. Erin Devine, a George Washington University student and high school classmate of Maura's, said she is doing what she can from Washington, D.C.

"I haven't lost hope. I've been working with a criminal psychology professor. We talked about it all day during class today and we're trying to do something about it. I called the police up there and even the U.S. Embassy in Canada," Devine said. Although Murray's father has expressed concern that not enough has been done to help find his daughter, police said they have followed procedures normal to investigating a missing adult case.

Scarinza said search efforts began 36 hours after the accident. That may seem like a long time, but it was for good reason, he said. Witnesses reported that Murray was drunk and so it was thought she fled the scene to avoid arrest. A further complication, authorities have said, was that the vehicle was registered to her father, not her.

"With all those facts, it's not unusual that the person wanted to leave and did not want to be found," said Scarinza. Crews fanned out for three days in the mountainous region before the search was called off. A dozen people resumed the search yesterday on foot and in a helicopter. Scarinza said that was more than enough manpower to scan the rural terrain.

It was likely the last time a search crew will venture into the woods. If Murray had wandered off the road, finding her would be easy because there is about 1½ feet of snow on the ground, Scarinza said. and it has not snowed since Feb. 9. Anyone with information that might help investigators is asked to call state police at 603-846-3333, or Haverhill police at 603-787-2222.

## **The Brockton Enterprise, February 20, 2004, Investigators say Murray probably left in another vehicle, Elaine Allegrini**

The Brockton Enterprise  
February 20, 2004

Investigators say Murray probably left in another vehicle

By Elaine Allegrini, Enterprise staff writer

HANSON The 21-year-old college student who disappeared after a minor car crash in New Hampshire last week probably left the area in another vehicle, investigators said Thursday after a search near the crash scene failed to produce evidence she had walked into the woods. Police say they have considered that someone whom Maura Murray knew was traveling with her in another vehicle, but that remains unknown. She is a junior at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Meanwhile, the investigation into the Feb. 9 disappearance widened Thursday when the FBI joined the probe at the request of New Hampshire State Police. FBI agents spent Thursday morning interviewing Murray's mother, Lauri Murray, at her Hanson home. "They want to talk to everybody that knows her, any clue," said a distraught Lauri Murray. "We're pushing, now, two weeks and there's not a word or a sign of this girl."

Maura Murray excelled in academics and sports at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School, went on to the West Point military academy and left after a year and a half to pursue a nursing degree at UMass, where she was on the dean's list. "She's a very academically talented, gifted student," said Jim Daley, Whitman-Hanson basketball coach and social-studies coordinator. "She's very organized, very diligent. She was a steady-eddy, very consistent, very focused, a lovely young girl.

"It's more than sad, it's tragic," added Daley, a Hanson resident who is hopeful Murray will let people know she is safe. "She definitely was very responsible," said her boyfriend, Army Lt. Bill Rausch, a West Point graduate who has been in New Hampshire since last week with his parents and Murray's family.

From a small motel over the Vermont border, the families have been searching the area, keeping in touch with investigators and talking to the media. Rausch said he cannot explain Murray's disappearance in the rural area where she has climbed mountains and vacationed with her family.

Her father, Fred, of South Weymouth, and older brother, Freddy, also searched the woods along Route 112 in the past week and have not found any footsteps to indicate she had been there, Rausch said. The family has established a Web site with photographs of Murray, hoping someone will recognize her. "She has that intense radiant smile in every photo," Rausch said. "She's such a radiant, happy girl that you just can't help falling in love with her."

He said his parents, who drove from Ohio to join the search, feel the same way. Rausch said Murray was excited about the challenges she faced in a new semester at school after they spent the holidays together. Her desire to follow her parents into the medical field prompted her transfer from West Point to UMass, he said.



Although they are separated because of his military assignment in the South, Rausch said he and Murray spoke regularly, sharing a cell phone account. "We talked about marriage quite a bit, when we were going to be engaged," Rausch said.

He said he received a voice mail from Murray on the afternoon of Feb. 9. "Regardless of why she went up here, I'm certain that she wanted me to know," he said in a telephone interview from the Vermont motel. "She told me she missed me, she loved me." She also asked him to call her or, if she did not hear from him, she would call him again, he said. The call never came.

Now, Rausch and Murray's family call her cell phone many times each day, but she does not answer. The calls go to voice mail. They also access the voicemail, but he said, there are no messages related to her disappearance or her whereabouts. New Hampshire State Police Lt. John Scarinza said investigators are as frustrated as Murray's family and friends. He hopes the FBI will uncover some information to shed some light on her disappearance while New Hampshire state and local police continue their probe. "We're trying to learn as much as we can about what Maura was thinking, who she may have for friends or why she may have headed north," Scarinza said Thursday.

He was in the area Thursday for the ground and air search of the area along Route 112 where Murray was briefly seen after crashing her vehicle and urging a witness not to contact police. There are several houses along that stretch of the otherwise lonely road that Murray could have gone to for help, Scarinza said. If she entered a vehicle to get away from the scene, as police believe, they wonder if she knew the driver or if she went with a stranger.

There is also new information indicating that Murray may have intended to leave school for longer than a week. "Clearly, her intention was to leave school for, at this point, a destination unknown," Scarinza said. "Why she went through Haverhill is unknown." Many of her belongings had been packed and left behind in her dorm room at the school, Scarinza said after talking to campus police.

The school newspaper, The Daily Collegian, also quoted a classmate who said Murray's room was packed like she was planning to move out. Murray was believed to have a single room in the dorm, school spokesman Patrick J. Murray said.

She was also quiet and did not socialize with other students, according to a report published in the school newspaper. On the day she disappeared, Murray e-mailed the art gallery where she worked and her teachers to say she would be gone for a week to attend to a family emergency, Scarinza said.

Although there have been reports that Murray may have been suicidal, that she had a family problem during the weekend before she disappeared, those close to the young woman said she was upbeat and did not have a history of depression.

She had crashed her father's car in Amherst on the Saturday night before she disappeared, but Rausch said it was nothing serious, that she skidded on ice. Police, however, said it was a significant accident.

A witness at the New Hampshire crash site said she appeared to be impaired by alcohol. Police have not provided information to support that, but Lauri Murray said she believes there was some wine in her daughter's car, though she is unsure if it was open or broke when the two airbags deployed in

the crash. That is not an issue, Lauri Murray said, as she tries to cope. Her son Curtis, 15, remains with her at the family home after spending several days searching the New Hampshire woods last week. Police have scaled back the ground search after making a third and larger sweep through the area Thursday, Scarinza said. "That's not the case for the rest of the investigation," he said.

The search for Maura Murray will continue in New Hampshire and in Massachusetts, both on an official and personal basis. "If Maura is not contacting us because she's unable to, we most certainly don't want her to give up," Rausch said. "We won't give up. Our mission right now is to find her."

## **New Hampshire Union Leader, February 20, 2004, Ground search ends for Bay State woman, Lorna Colquhoun**

New Hampshire Union Leader  
February 20, 2004

Ground search ends for Bay State woman

By Lorna Colquhoun

HAVERHILL -- A second search of a rural part of Swiftwater for a woman who vanished from there after a car accident 10 days ago will be the last one, at least for now. State police, Fish and Game conservation officers, three search dogs and a helicopter fanned out across a two-square-mile area along the Wild Ammonoosuc River and Route 112 yesterday in search of Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass.

But, officials said, the woods gave no clues as to what happened to the woman, who was last seen Feb. 9 at about 7 p.m., after she had a minor car accident in the area of the Weathered Barn on Route 112. "Ground teams checked trails and roadways . . . there are no conclusive clues to continue," said Fish and Game Lt. Todd Bogardus at a news conference yesterday.

It was disappointing news for the family of Murray, who have vigorously searched throughout the area for the past 10 days, traveling as far as Conway and Bartlett to put up posters asking for information about the woman, a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

"She loved her family and friends, and there is no way she would put the two most important people in her life -- her father and my son -- through this nightmare," said Sharon Rausch, the mother of Murray's boyfriend, Army Lt. Bill Rausch. Her son must report back for duty in Oklahoma tomorrow, she said, and other family members who have put their lives on hold must also return to their homes. But, she said, that does not mean they are giving up trying to find her.

"There are countless friends clamoring to help," Rausch said. Authorities are not going to stop trying to locate Murray, either, said State Police Lt. John Scarinza.

"We understand the family's frustration in not being able to find Maura," he said. "At this point, we do not see anything on a search on the ground, but it does not mean we are not searching for her. It's more appropriate now to look elsewhere and gather information." New Hampshire investigators, which include the Haverhill police department, state police and Fish and Game, also have been working with Massachusetts law enforcement, including the UMass campus police. The FBI also has been providing assistance in Massachusetts in developing a timeline of Murray's actions in the week before her disappearance.

But the case is puzzling. Murray had e-mailed her professors telling them she would be out of classes for a week, while she tended to some family business. Rausch said Murray was in contact with her son during the day on Monday, leaving him a telephone message that said, "I love you, call me," she said. Murray, who had spent many family vacations visiting and hiking in the White Mountains, also had packed a suitcase.

She had a minor car accident on Route 112 that night. Witnesses said she asked them to call a wrecker, but not the police. Police were called and an officer was on the scene in less than 10 minutes after the emergency call, Scarinza said. In that time, however, Murray vanished.

"How or why is unknown at this point," Scarinza said. "We are reasonably confident that she did not enter the woods near the accident scene -- that area was searched several times." While Haverhill police conducted a search of the area when they responded to the accident scene, nothing was found. Scarinza said it was Tuesday before the police were able to determine and contact Murray's father, the owner of the car, who then discovered that his daughter was missing.

A search of the area began that Wednesday, but nothing was found. Because there has been no snow or other weather to radically change the landscape, the second search went over the same terrain yesterday. The accident scene was in sight of several homes, although the area becomes remote after that. Scarinza said she did not seek help from any of the homeowners, so it may be that she accepted a ride somewhere, but, he said, "there is no indication that anyone picked her up."

There is no evidence of foul play, either, he said. "There is absolutely no indication that any harm has come to her," he said. After more than a week of heartbreaking days, Rausch said the family can only conclude that Murray is unable to contact them. "It's been a very long 10 days, and we are very worried," she said. "We are all convinced in our hearts that she is somewhere and someone is preventing her from contacting us."

Scarinza said that despite the posters seeking information and media coverage of Murray's disappearance, there has been little public response. He would not say if any of her accounts have been active since the disappearance. Rausch and her husband must return to their Ohio home on Monday, but she said their efforts would continue to find Murray.

"Maura, we love you," she said. "We are never going to give up hope and don't you give up hope. We'll bring you home." Anyone with information can contact the Haverhill police department at 747-2222.

**Boston Globe, February 20, 2004, With no new leads FBI joins search for missing student,  
Peter DeMarco**

Boston Globe  
February 20, 2004

With no new leads, FBI joins search for missing student  
By Peter DeMarco

The FBI has joined in the search for missing college student Maura Murray, but without a single lead in the nearly two-week old case, New Hampshire authorities said the additional investigators might not make a difference. Murray, a 21-year-old Hanson native and nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, vanished the night of Feb. 9 after crashing her car into a snowbank on a rural road in Woodsville, N.H.

Police in helicopters and with their dogs searched the area for a second time yesterday, but with no evidence that Murray fled into the woods, her family and authorities believe she either hitched a ride and is on her own, or was abducted. Missing persons cases are typically handled by local and state authorities unless a federal crime has been committed.

So far, investigators have found no evidence that Murray was kidnapped or taken across state lines. Nevertheless, at the urging of Murray's father, Fred, New Hampshire State Police are now working with Boston-based FBI agents on the case, officials said. Though police have questioned many of Murray's family members and friends, FBI agents will probably return to UMass-Amherst and Hanson for further interviews and background checks, said Lieutenant John Scarinza, commander of State Police Troop F.

"We're now at the phase where we need to learn more about the week before Maura headed north," he said. "If any friends or associates or classmates had any discussions with her about her wanting to come up north, or places she'd like to visit, or important destinations, we'd like to hear from them. Maybe that would help us understand where she went, or why."

Hours before she departed for New Hampshire on Feb. 9, Murray e-mailed a professor and her part-time campus job to say she was heading home for the week because of a death in the family, according to school officials and the Massachusetts Daily Collegian, a student newspaper.

Withdrawing \$280 from an ATM, she loaded her Saturn with clothing, a book, and a stuffed toy monkey and headed to New Hampshire, where she had frequently hiked with her father. She told no one of her plans. About 7 that evening, she lost control on a sharp bend on Route 112 in Woodsville. Unhurt, but appearing to be intoxicated, she refused help from a motorist who offered assistance and was gone when police reached her car about 10 minutes later, officials said.

Fearing that Murray may have been taken across state lines and unaware of any major issue she might have been struggling with, her family urged the FBI to get involved. Woodsville is about 5 miles from the Vermont border and about a two-hour drive from New York, Maine, and Canada.

Fred Murray, who is scheduled to appear on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" today to discuss his daughter's disappearance, said the FBI involvement is a good start, but not enough. "They're

saying the FBI is in, but that's a very limited scale," he said. "I'd like to see the best case scenario -- agents crawling all over the place up here."

Scarinza said investigators, including detectives at UMass-Amherst, share Murray's concerns. At the same time, he cautioned that people sometimes escape to the White Mountains without telling their family or friends. "She's an adult. If you want to go on vacation for a few weeks, you have a right to do that. But even the FBI is not going to go to California to see if she's on vacation there," he said.

"Hopefully, by the close of [today] we will have talked to everyone at least twice within a reasonable radius of the area. We're talking 5 miles, give or take," he continued. "There's no evidence of a struggle near or around the car. No witness says there was an altercation. No evidence that any criminal offense has happened to her. Yes, she's missing. It's frustrating for the family. And law enforcement officials are frustrated too. We have no idea where she is."

**WCAX, February 20, 2004, Search For Missing Woman Leads To Burlington - UMass Student Last Seen In Woodville, N.H.**

WCAX

February 20, 2004

Search For Missing Woman Leads To Burlington  
UMass Student Last Seen In Woodville, N.H.

Police are expanding their search for a missing woman to the Champlain Valley. New Hampshire State Police say that before Maura Murray, 21, disappeared a week and a half ago, the missing University of Massachusetts student had been on her computer looking up directions to Burlington.

Murray was last seen in Woodsville, where she was involved in a minor car accident. Thursday afternoon police scoured the area, as Murray's family kept their fingers crossed that they would come up empty.

"I hope they don't find anything," said Fred Murray, Maura's father. "I want them there, but I hope they're unsuccessful. I appreciate their efforts." The search turned up nothing, and has been put on hold while investigators look into the map of Burlington found on Murray's computer.

Police say Murray also withdrew \$300 from an ATM, and emailed professors saying she had to take a week off to deal with a family problem.

**Boston Globe, February 21, 2004, Map clue spurs search for student in Vermont, Peter DeMarco**

Boston Globe  
February 21, 2004

Map clue spurs search for student in Vermont  
By Peter DeMarco

Police are searching the Burlington, Vt., area for missing college student Maura Murray after a review of her personal computer revealed she used the Internet on the day she disappeared to obtain driving directions there. Fred Murray, the missing woman's father, said University of Massachusetts at Amherst campus police discovered yesterday that the junior nursing student had used Mapquest.com to research directions to Burlington on Feb. 9. Hours later, she crashed her car into a snowbank in Woodsville, N.H., and vanished without a trace.

Murray's father said he also discovered a note card that mentioned Burlington among many personal belongings she had packed in her car. The two last visited the northern Vermont city on Columbus Day weekend, when they hiked nearby Camel's Hump Mountain and Mount Mansfield.

New Hampshire State Police -- who are investigating Murray's disappearance, along with Haverhill, N.H., police and the FBI -- notified authorities in Vermont yesterday to be on the lookout for the slender, 5-foot-7 Hanson, Mass., woman, who was last seen nearly two weeks ago. "We mentioned to all the officers at roll call to be on the lookout for her," said Lieutenant Scott Davidson of the Burlington police. "We have her picture. The South Burlington police are looking for her, too."

New Hampshire State Police Lieutenant John Scarinza said yesterday that for several days police have been checking motels and hotels in several Vermont communities. Investigators know of no one Murray might know in the Burlington area, he said. "Vermont State Police, Burlington police, and other local agencies have canvassed motels in Burlington, South Burlington, Colchester, Shelburne, and surrounding towns to see if she checked in anywhere around," he said.

Authorities used helicopters and dogs to search the area where Murray crashed last week and again on Thursday, but have found no indication that she fled into nearby woods or evidence of foul play. Nevertheless, her family and friends say they believe she was kidnapped. What is clear is that Murray, a conscientious nursing student and former West Point cadet, was deeply troubled by something in the days preceding her disappearance.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Murray was working at her campus job at a security desk in a UMass-Amherst dormitory when she received a phone call that made her cry, said her father and a high school friend, Andrea Connolly. She was so disturbed by the call that her supervisor had to escort her home. Two days later, she damaged her father's car in a minor accident. Distraught over her fender-bender, she called her boyfriend, Army Lieutenant Bill Rausch, in tears the next day.

About 24 hours later, on Feb. 9, she lied to a professor and the campus art gallery where she worked, informing them through e-mails that she needed to return to her hometown of Hanson because of a death in the family, officials and family members said.



Murray then withdrew \$280 from an ATM, packed all her belongings as if she were moving out, and took off with some of them in her Saturn. A witness who offered Murray help after she crashed her car told police she appeared to be intoxicated, officials said. An open bottle of alcohol was found in the car, Rausch said.

By the time Haverhill police arrived at the accident scene, Murray, who had asked the witness not to call authorities, was gone. Fred Murray said he had planned to talk to his daughter that night about filling out a police report in the earlier accident. In her car was a blank accident form from the Amherst police.

"I'm convinced she was going to call me Monday night and was going to make out the form," he said. "If she wasn't going to do it, why go to the Amherst police and get the form? That makes me think she was unable to make the call. That's why I think she's been physically harmed and is in danger." New Hampshire officials, respectful of her family's concerns, caution that Murray may have simply gone away for a few days without informing anyone.

"I totally appreciate the family's frustration in not knowing where she is or what has happened," Scarinza said. "But it's also true that she was apparently leaving Massachusetts without telling her family or friends or her boyfriend. That indicates to me that perhaps she wanted to get away on her own."

Murray's family has offered a reward for information and has created a website, [www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html](http://www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html).

**The Patriot Ledger, February 21, 2004, 'I want to talk to the last one to see her': Missing student's mother heads to N.H. to join search, Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger  
February 21, 2004

'I want to talk to the last one to see her': Missing student's mother heads to N.H. to join search  
By Joe McGee

HANSON - The mother of missing college student Maura Murray of Hanson was planning to travel to New Hampshire this weekend to question witnesses in Haverhill, where her daughter disappeared Feb. 9.

"I want to talk to people on my own, face to face. It's my mother's intuition," Lauri Murray said Friday. Authorities Friday expanded their search into western Vermont after learning Murray looked up directions to the Burlington area before disappearing.

Though police said they are not sure where the Vermont lead may take them, they are exploring all avenues in what has become a stagnant investigation. Police were unaware of anyone Maura knew in Vermont. Vermont State Police and Burlington police were canvassing motels in Burlington, South Burlington, Colchester and Shelburne, hoping to find clues.

Murray was last seen on Wild Ammonoosuc Road on Route 112 in Haverhill, where she crashed her car into a snowbank. It was thought she may have wandered into nearby woods, but search and rescue efforts were officially called off Friday. New Hampshire State Police Lt. John Scarinza said police now believe Murray got a ride from the accident scene. There was no evidence, however, to suggest there was a struggle.

"From that point on, it's destination unknown," Scarinza said. Nobody is able to determine why Murray, a junior at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, was in New Hampshire. She left campus with some money, and had sent an E-mail saying she would be away to take care of unspecified family business.

Police said they found evidence that Murray was drinking inside her car. A witness said she appeared drunk, refused help and left the scene on her own. But none of those clues make sense to those who know Murray. They said she is an overachieving student and athlete, and had no personal problems to the best of anyone's knowledge.

Lauri Murray has not left her home since Feb. 9. She said her emotions have changed from feeling sad and depressed, to the point that she is angry and wants to investigate her daughter's disappearance on her own.

"I want to talk to the last one to see her. All the information we got was that she was walking up that road and just disappeared. Nobody just disappears like that, and as far as being picked up or that she ran away, I'm getting angry. She would not do this and she would've contacted someone. We're pushing 10 days now and somebody out there knows something," she said.

Lauri Murray said Pat Wilson and Lee Meehan, two of her co-workers at Samuel Marcus Nursing & Retirement Home in Weymouth, are arranging to take time off to drive her to New Hampshire. Murray is recovering from a broken ankle. Lauri Murray's daughter Julie, an Army officer at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, is taking emergency leave and is expected to arrive on Sunday to help in the search.

Leave is up for Maura Murray's boyfriend, Army Lt. Bill Rausch of Oklahoma, who is heading back to his military post. Maura Murray's father Frederick and her brothers and sisters are still handing out fliers in Vermont and New Hampshire. Lauri Murray said she plans on doing all she can to help find her daughter.

"I can't sit here and just be in the dark. I know everybody is doing the best they can but I need to be up there," she said.

Joe McGee may be reached at [jmcgee@ledger.com](mailto:jmcgee@ledger.com)

## **New Hampshire Union Leader, February 21, 2004, Search for missing Mass. woman expands to Vt., David Tirrell-Wysocki**

New Hampshire Union Leader  
February 21, 2004

Search for missing Mass. woman expands to Vt.  
By David Tirrell-Wysocki

Authorities expanded their search for a missing Massachusetts woman to western Vermont this week after learning she looked up directions to the Burlington area before disappearing in New Hampshire last week. Officials know of no one Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass., might know in the Burlington area, New Hampshire State Police Lt. John Scarinza said. He said for several days police have been checking motels and hotels in several Vermont communities, with no luck.

"Vermont State Police, Burlington police and other local agencies have canvassed motels in Burlington, South Burlington, Colchester, Shelburne and surrounding towns to see if she checked in anywhere around," he said.

Murray was last seen after a minor accident in northern New Hampshire on Feb. 9. Searches, including a renewed search Thursday with dogs and a helicopter, turned up no sign that the woman wandered into the snow-covered woods. Scarinza said police believe Murray got a ride from the accident scene. "From that point on, it's destination unknown," he said.

Family members believe she would contact them if she could, so they believe she either is being held against her will or has been harmed. But Scarinza said searchers found no sign of a struggle at the scene or any other evidence that she has been harmed. "I totally appreciate the family's frustration in not knowing where she is or what has happened," he said. "But it's also true that she was apparently leaving Massachusetts without telling her family or friends or her boyfriend."

## **The Caledonian-Record, February 21, 2004, Search For Missing Woman Extended To Vermont Nothing Turned Up, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
February 21, 2004

Search For Missing Woman Extended To Vermont Nothing Turned Up  
By Gary E. Lindsley

The search for a missing 21-year-old Massachusetts woman has shifted in a different direction, at least for the moment. New Hampshire State Police Troop F Commander Lt. John Scarinza said a search of Maura Murray's computer in her dorm room at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst revealed the missing woman had searched for directions to Burlington, Vt.

Law enforcement authorities, as well as family members and friends, scoured the Burlington, Shelburne, East Burlington and Colchester areas Friday, a day after New Hampshire State Police and New Hampshire Fish and Game suspended a one-day air and ground search in the Haverhill, N.H. area. Murray, who is a nursing student at UMass at Amherst, left the university Feb. 9 and headed toward New Hampshire in a black 1996 Saturn.

About a mile east of Swiftwater on Route 112, Murray failed to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve and her Saturn went off the right side of the highway, striking a strand of trees. Butch Atwood, who lives just up the road from the site, offered her help. She refused. However, he went to his house to call police and EMS. When Haverhill police arrived about seven to nine minutes later, Murray was nowhere to be found.

Scarinza said police detectives with the UMass campus police department searched Murray's computer and learned she had used the Mapquest Web site to search for directions to Burlington, the day before she had her accident in Haverhill. "We have contacted Vermont State Police and Burlington police," he said. "They have canvassed all of the hotels. She also had looked at hotel (Web) sites."

Scarinza said color photos of Murray have been distributed in the Burlington area, as well as in Colchester, Shelburne and East Burlington. "No one has seen her," he said.

Scarinza speculated Murray had searched for directions to Burlington because she and her father, Fred, had been to the area and had hiked Mt. Mansfield and Camel's Hump. Murray said he and his daughter had hiked Mt. Mansfield and Camel's Hump on Columbus Day weekend and had had a great time.

"She loved it," he said. "Especially the area downtown where you can walk." The search in Vermont comes a day after police conducted and suspended a combined air and ground search for Murray, the second such search since she disappeared Feb. 9. Although three dog search teams did not come up with any hits Thursday, a canine team did hit on Murray's scent when a search was conducted Feb. 11.

Scarinza said a canine tracked Murray for about 100 yards east of where Murray's car went off the road. He said the trail ended in the general area of Atwood's residence. Because the trail came to an end, Scarinza believes it is an indication she left the area in a car. "It's very frustrating," he said, referring to the lack of any information coming in about where Murray can be.

Scarinza said UMass campus police have been interviewing people, including professors and students, since Murray left the university for unknown reasons. She'd e-mailed her professors telling them she would be away for a week because of a family emergency.

"It has become pretty clear, she hasn't told anyone she was leaving," he said. "In reality, she had planned to go (to Burlington)." However, Murray was headed in an entirely different direction, toward Lincoln, N.H., when she had her crash. She was familiar with the New Hampshire White Mountains as well.

Anyone who has seen Murray is asked to contact the New Hampshire State Police at 603-846-3333 or 603-271-1170. People also can call the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

**The Caledonian-Record, February 21, 2004, Family, Friends Not Giving Up Efforts, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
February 21, 2004

Family, Friends Not Giving Up Efforts  
Seeking Outside Help  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Family and friends of Maura Murray have been in the area of the crash site conducting massive foot searches for Maura Murray since Feb. 11. Friday, their attention turned to Vermont where they distributed more fliers to hotels and police agencies in Burlington.

Sharon Rausch and her husband, Bill, have been helping Fred Murray search for his daughter since Feb. 11. So has the Rausch's son, Billie, who is Murray's fiance-to-be and a second lieutenant with C Battery, 119th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. They have been going non-stop in their search for Murray, including walking trails and roads, distributing fliers and knocking on doors in the area of the accident.

Family members and friends are at times upset about the lack of information or difference in information obtained by police investigators and what they have been able to glean from knocking on doors and asking questions. Last week, they were told by investigators it was believed Murray had headed toward the Rausch's home in Marengo, Ohio, because she was having family trouble.

Sharon Rausch said although she didn't believe that, she had one of her children, who had stayed behind, put notes on the door for Murray and left the home unlocked. However, Murray has not turned up in Ohio. Nor have signs of her surfaced in Vermont. And the only hint of a sign of her in New Hampshire was Feb. 11 when a canine tracked her scent from her car to about 100 yards east of the accident site, in the area of the Butch Atwood residence.

The 5-feet, 7-inch-tall brunette, who weighs about 120 pounds and has blue eyes, reportedly e-mailed her employer she would be gone for a week and took about \$280 from her checking account.

Family members have said it was not like Murray to just up and leave the campus without telling anyone. Rausch said a dorm mate saw her leave the campus about 4 or 4:30 p.m. Feb 9. She said Murray's father and her son went through Maura's stuff again and found an index card with the Mapquest directions for Burlington, Vt. Rausch said the Saturn was having mechanical problems, possibly only running on three cylinders, when Murray set out for Burlington. She said, possibly, because the car was running poorly, she decided to leave Interstate 91 and pick up Route 302 and head toward the Lincoln area.

And Rausch discounts any thoughts Murray would have just walked away from her family, boyfriend and friends because she loved them too much. She and Fred Murray said Maura wouldn't have picked up insurance forms for her father to fill out if she had not planned to return home.

"I hope we can get more help...in Vermont," Murray's father said. "We need to look elsewhere. I will take all the help I can get from anywhere." Family members and friends are hoping the FBI will take a more thorough and active role in the search for Murray since three states are involved.



**Lowell Sun / The New Hampshire Union Leader / Foster's Sunday Citizen / Nashua Telegraph, February 22, 2004, Dad of missing Mass. woman now suspects foul play - Father of missing woman frustrated with search, Kate McCann**

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — The father of a missing Massachusetts woman said he wants police to start treating the search like a criminal investigation. Since 21-year-old Maura Murray vanished after a car accident in northern New Hampshire two weeks ago, police have repeatedly said they do not suspect foul play.

Searchers found no signs of struggle at the scene, and it appears Murray was planning a getaway. She lied to professors about a death in the family, and said she would be gone from class for the week and then packed her belongings as if she was moving out. New Hampshire investigators have been working with Massachusetts law enforcement, including campus police at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, where Murray is a nursing student.

Police said it appears she was leaving Massachusetts without telling anyone and wanted to get away on her own, and she may not know about the search if she's not in New England. But her family is starting to suspect otherwise. Her father, Frederick Murray, believes his daughter was given a ride from a person who won't come forward since he helped her leave the scene of an accident, or a person who gave her a ride and then abducted her.

"To take a break or start a new life, she would need money," Murray said in a telephone interview. "She hasn't used her ATM card, she hasn't used her cell phone, she hasn't spent a dime." Searches, including a renewed search Thursday with dogs and a helicopter in northern New Hampshire, turned up no sign that the woman wandered into the snow-covered woods.

Police called off the ground search in that area. Frederick Murray said he is afraid the search is slowly grinding to a halt. "We should think of it in terms of a criminal investigation," Murray said. "It sounds like it would be the key to expanding it. Let's grab the bull by the horns and call it foul play." Vermont state police, Burlington police and other local agencies were combing area motels yesterday, after a check of Murray's computer found she had looked up directions to Burlington the day she disappeared.

## **Journal Opinion, February 25, 2004 (Flier)**

(Not an article, but a copy of the missing person flier)

Journal Opinion

February 25, 2004

Page 18

MISSING

02/09/04

Maura Murray

Age: 21

height : 5' 7" weight 120lbs.

curley brown shoulder length hair

Last seen wearing jeans & dark coat

[Click to see picture with flier](#)

Contact Haverhill Police Dept.

603-787-2222

**Boston Globe, February 27, 2004, Footprints in the snow, Brian McGrory**

Boston Globe  
February 27, 2004

Footprints in the snow  
By Brian McGrory

Haverhill, N.H. -- They say the hardest thing that any parent can ever be called upon to do is bury their child. But standing amid the glorious scenery of the White Mountains this week, where an uneven layer of snow coated the meadows like vanilla frosting on a homemade cake, I had to think there might be something even worse. And Fred Murray is living it right now.

Murray is from the South Shore. His daughter, Maura, a 21-year-old nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, vanished into the thin air of the northern New Hampshire wilderness this month. She had a minor car accident along a pitch black stretch of rural road on Feb. 9, and in the 10 minutes it took police to respond, she was gone. Her cellphone hasn't been used since. Her credit cards haven't registered any purchases. She left most of her clothing in a suitcase in the back of the disabled car. And her father, her sister, her brothers, her friends have no idea what they're supposed to do now.

Immediately, they descended upon this hamlet en masse. They scrambled through the dense woods nearby. They drove a hundred miles in every direction, tacking fliers to telephone polls and bulletin boards of local stores. They stopped at bus stations in hopes that someone might have seen something. "I followed footsteps through the snow," Fred Murray said this week. When he saw a set of prints, he took off after them. This much is known: At UMass, Maura received a call on the evening of Feb. 5 that reduced her to tears. A couple of days later, she told professors she'd be gone for a week for a family emergency. On Feb. 9, she left her boyfriend of three years, an army lieutenant in Oklahoma, an e-mail and voice mail in which she indicated nothing wrong, packed her car, and headed north.

The next time she was seen was in this tiny valley town, by Butch Atwood, a 58-year-old local school bus driver who passed her car as it sat in the snowbank. He said he stopped and asked if she needed help. She declined. He drove the 100 yards to his house and called the police. When they arrived, she was gone. Authorities sent a heat-seeking helicopter along the treetops as recently as yesterday. They used dogs to try to trace her steps away from the accident scene. They dispatched cadaver-sniffing canines into the forest, all to no avail.

Eventually, life continues, bills need to be paid, and last weekend Fred Murray had to get back home. "The worst part was driving home alone," he said. "Then I stopped in her room at UMass, and that was pretty awful." The two were uncommonly tight since she was a young girl. Both avid runners, they trained together. They hiked regularly in New Hampshire. "I was looking for some hint that she might have left for me, something that I'd understand that would say goodbye," he said of her room search. "But there wasn't anything."

"We weren't strangers; we were very close. I can't see her not saying goodbye to me. That's why I suspect foul play." Her father acknowledges that she was fleeing school for reasons that he said are

still unclear. He also believes that once she crashed, only two scenarios remain: She was picked up on the road by someone who wanted to help her or by someone who hurt her. If it was the former, they would have already come forward to let authorities know where she went.

Butch Atwood, the last witness to see her, has been questioned several times by police. Worried that he should have helped more, he told me outside his cabin this week, "I have some sleepless nights now." If Maura Murray is alive and well, she ought to know that hearts are broken. She should know that no mistake is insurmountable. People forgive. Time and attention heal feelings and wounds.

These days, when Fred Murray's phone rings, he jumps. Minutes drag like hours. Shady psychics and gumshoes keep offering help. "I just want to get my little girl back," he said. Hopefully, there's a happy ending. It's just tough to see it now.

Brian McGrory is a Globe columnist. He can be reached at [mcgrory@globe.com](mailto:mcgrory@globe.com).

**The Patriot Ledger, February 28, 2004, A family waits and wonders: What happened to Maura?, Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger  
February 28, 2004

A family waits and wonders: What happened to Maura?  
Joe McGee

WELLS RIVER, Vt. - Kathleen Murray scatters the belongings on a motel room floor like pieces of a puzzle. The bag of stuff is what her sister, Maura Murray of Hanson, left behind when she was last seen Feb. 9 in Woodsville, N.H. - clothes, CDs, makeup and a copy of Not Without Peril," journalist Nicholas Howe's story about people who died hiking New Hampshire's Presidential Mountain Range.

For Kathleen Murray, the book is unnerving because it talks about the rural region of northern New Hampshire where Murray was last seen.

My father gave it to her. I don't know what it could mean," the Hanover resident said.

The conditions couldn't have been worse for 21-year-old Murray when she disappeared. It was dark and freezing on the stretch of Route 112 that runs along the Wild Ammonoosuc River near the Vermont border. Police believe Murray was on her own. Nobody knew she left the campus at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where she was a junior studying nursing.

Then she crashed. The only roadside help was a 350-pound man named Butch Atwood, an imposing figure whose presence wouldn't be that welcoming to a young woman in the dead of the night, according to his wife.

Murray's family has lived in a nearby motel ever since, trying to piece together the mystery of her disappearance. After two weeks, there are few good leads. All they have are the bag of items she didn't take with her, wherever she went.

I know she was up here on her own will, but something altered her plans along the way and it could've been foul play. Nothing else makes sense," said Fred Murray of Hanson, Maura's brother.

The scene of the accident in the Woodsville section of Haverhill, N.H., is at a sharp bend of Route 112, which is marked by an old red barn that at one time was a gift shop for summer travelers visiting the White Mountains. Police believe Murray left UMass that afternoon, possibly upset over cracking up her father's car days earlier, or for some other reason nobody knows about.

It's not certain if she was going west on Route 112 toward Vermont, or east into New Hampshire, but the car went off the road into some brush at about 7 p.m.

The accident couldn't have been that bad. One little nick on a tree is all that marks the scene other than the missing" posters family and friends stapled up. Damage to the Saturn sedan was minimal, but Murray's head cracked the windshield. The front of the car was pushed in.

Bus driver Butch Atwood was coming around the bend in his school bus after dropping off a group of skiers who had been in North Conway for the day. He stopped, offered Murray help, and kept going when she said she had called AAA. Atwood parked the bus at his home, about 100 yards up Route 112, walked inside and told his wife Barbara what happened.

Another neighbor called police, who arrived within minutes. They found the bag, some bottles of alcohol, and that was it. Maura Murray was gone.

Police searched the area for days but there were no obvious clues. There were no footprints and a bloodhound lost a scent on the road near the Atwoods house. Ever since, Fred and Kathleen Murray and other family members have been staying at a motel in Wells River, a town just over the border from New Hampshire.

Police are treating the disappearance as a missing persons case, and a stagnant one at that. The only significant lead turned up in Burlington, Vt., but it went nowhere. Authorities said Murray had downloaded Internet directions to Burlington. Fred and Kathleen Murray say they're growing frustrated but won't give up.

The chapter of Howe's book titled "A Question of Life or Death" is book-marked with a Hallmark card and a photograph of Maura's brother Kurtis in a Little League uniform. Kathleen Murray got emotional looking it.

"We have to find something just to get this going again. We need every lead followed up," she said.

For the family, trying to find the clue that will escalate the search is literally like trying to find a needle in a haystack in such an open, rural area. Every morning Murray family members search snowmobile trails, snowy fields, general stores and frozen ponds to look for footprints, and people to talk to. They're looking for anything.

It's all anyone's talking about these days around the area, and everybody has a theory.

"Without fail, everybody who comes in here asks, 'Have they found her yet?' One kid came in telling me, 'They found her in Berlin (N.H.).' I would've known that if they did," said Bill Matteson, owner of Swiftwater Stagestop, a general store on Route 112, close to the accident scene.

"Many people who live in this part of the state are immigrants" from Massachusetts, who came here to get away from stuff like this," said Jeannette Wrigley, a Dorchester native and manager of the McDonald's in Haverhill.

"Personally, I think somebody picked her up," Wrigley said.

Butch and Barbara Atwood are from Raynham and Taunton, respectively. They consider Haverhill much safer than where they grew up in Southeastern Massachusetts.

"I might be afraid if I saw Butch. He's 350 pounds and has this mustache," Barbara Atwood said.

But she said there would have been no reason for Murray to fear anyone in an area where people know and look out for each other.

Said ice fisherman R.O. Richards of Lisbon, N.H., in his ice shanty on French Pond in Haverhill, "We have some thieves that might steal the teeth off a billy goat, but maybe that's it."

Matteson said people know not to mess with each other" in this part of rural New Hampshire. Nearly everyone has a gun, he said. Matteson said he thinks that Murray walked away on her own, and got lost in the woods. It has happened before, according to locals.

An armed society is a safe society, that's why we have no crime," Matteson said.

In my opinion, it's a numbers game. On a Monday at 7 at night, maybe three cars went by here, at best. What are the odds that one is a predator?" he said.

Locals are conditioned to deal with the weather, but wandering off could be fatal for a tourist. This week it was considered mild, even though the temperatures were below freezing and even colder with fierce winds. Without a good jacket and supplies good luck," log cabin builder Mark Hesseltine said.

Not if you're not from around here, no way you're going to survive," Hesseltine said.

New Hampshire State Police and FBI agents in Massachusetts are now focusing on Murray's reason for leaving school. Nobody is thinking harder about Murray's state of mind than her sister Kathleen, one of her closest confidantes. The Saturday before Murray left school, she and her father, Frederick Murray of Weymouth, were shopping for a new car in Amherst because her Saturn was running on three cylinders.

It is also known that Murray got a phone call the Thursday before she left that disturbed her to the point that she needed to be escorted to her dormitory room by a supervisor. Friends in Amherst told the family they don't know what the call was about. Her father didn't think she seemed upset that weekend.

Looking at her sister's personal effects, Kathleen Murray wondered what went wrong.

She always told me everything. At school she had a few friends, but the people she was closest to was her boyfriend, or me, or my sister Julie. We would've known," Kathleen Murray said.

**Boston Herald, March 2, 2004, Missing woman's sister finds underwear near crash site,  
Marie Szaniszlo**

Boston Herald  
March 2, 2004  
Page 16

Missing woman's sister finds underwear near crash site  
By Marie Szaniszlo

The sister of a University of Massachusetts nursing student who vanished three weeks ago after crashing her car on a New Hampshire road discovered a pair of women's underwear a few miles from the crash scene.

Kathleen Murray found the white panties lying on the snow Thursday near Fresh Pond Road in Haverhill, N.H. The spot was about four miles from the spot where her sister Maura skidded into a snowbank on Route 112, Sharon Rausch, the mother of the missing woman's boyfriend, said yesterday. Kathleen Murray turned the clothing over to Haverhill police for DNA testing.

Her sister, a 21-year-old former West Point cadet who transferred to UMass-Amherst, packed her room and e-mailed university staff Feb. 9 that she would be out for a week. As an excuse, she said there had been a death in her family.

Haverhill police waited 36 hours after the crash to begin a full-scale search, and waited more than a week to ask for the FBI's help on a limited basis. Frustrated by the delays in the investigation, the Hanson family has begun consulting with a private detective.



**Sun Journal / The New Hampshire Union Leader / Boston Globe / Nashua Telegraph,  
March 2, 2004, Investigator joins search for woman - Family of woman hires investigator,  
Associated Press**

The New Hampshire Union Leader / Boston Globe / Nashua Telegraph  
March 2, 2004

Investigator joins search for woman

A private investigator is assisting in the search for a missing Massachusetts woman who was last seen three weeks ago following a minor car crash in northern New Hampshire. R. C. Stevens of PSII Inc., a Northampton, Mass., private investigation agency, is helping to look into the disappearance of 21-year-old Maura Murray, who was last seen the night of Feb. 9. It appears that Murray, a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, was planning a getaway. She lied to professors about a death in the family, said she would be gone from class for the week, then packed her belongings as if she were moving out. Her family and friends believe she was given a ride and want police to treat her disappearance as a criminal investigation.

**Boston Globe, March 2, 2004, Where could Maura be?, Brian McGrory**

Boston Globe  
March 2, 2004

Where could Maura be?  
By Brian McGrory

The mystery continues to deepen around Maura Murray, the nursing student who vanished in New Hampshire three weeks ago after she slammed her car into some trees on a dark, rural road.

Investigators have determined the origin of an unusual telephone call that Murray received a few nights before she fled the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The conversation upset her so much that she had to be escorted from her job to her dorm room.

The call, according to UMass police Lieutenant Robert Thrasher, came from one of Murray's two sisters. But Thrasher said police have yet to receive an explanation of what was so upsetting.

Yesterday, Fred Murray, the girls' father, said he was told that Maura's sister called her to talk about a "monstrous" fight with a boyfriend. "But I don't think that would upset her all that much," Murray said.

The more details are revealed, the more baffling the case becomes, police acknowledge. Yesterday, Thrasher said that Maura had fastidiously packed all her belongings into boxes before she left school, even removing the art from her dorm room walls. Meanwhile, one UMass friend has seemingly withheld information from police, saying she didn't want to get Maura "in trouble."

UMass investigators, who have interviewed dozens of potential witnesses and combed through Murray's computer, shared an in-depth time line that preceded the disappearance. Murray received the call on Thursday evening, Feb. 5. On Saturday, Feb. 7, Maura and a girlfriend had dinner with Fred Murray, who was visiting Amherst. Afterward, the father returned to his hotel, and the two young women attended a campus party.

At 3:30 a.m. Feb. 8, Maura crashed her father's new Toyota into a roadside post. She told her father about the accident later that morning. Just after midnight on Monday morning, Feb. 9, she conducted a Map Quest search of the Berkshires and Burlington, Vt., on her personal computer.

At 3:40 p.m. Monday, she withdrew \$280 from an area ATM, then stopped at a liquor store. Surveillance cameras at the bank machine and in the store show that she was alone.

Maura was next seen at 7 p.m. in the White Mountains hamlet of Haverhill, N.H., an area where she had hiked and camped with her father. School bus driver Butch Atwood came across her car in an embankment, he said, and stopped to ask if she needed help.

When she declined, he drove the 100 yards to his cabin and summoned police. By the time authorities arrived seven to 10 minutes later, she was gone. Her bank card, credit cards, and cellphone have been dormant since.

Authorities are exploring four scenarios, all of which they say contain flaws.

Least likely is that she committed suicide. She left no note. Her grades were excellent. Her medical records showed no issues, and her relationships appeared sound. One investigator characterized her ongoing e-mail exchange with her boyfriend, an Army lieutenant in Oklahoma, as "sappy."

Second unlikeliest is that, intoxicated, she ventured into the woods and was overcome by the elements. But dogs couldn't trace her scent, there were no footprints in the fresh snow, and helicopters equipped with heat-seeking devices were no help.

Third is that in the brief window of time, she was picked up by someone who abducted or killed her. But authorities believe the odds of a violent criminal coincidentally coming across her on the rural road are as remote as the location itself.

Fourth is that she was picked up by a passerby, taken to a bus station, and fled the area, possibly with little idea of the anguish she has left behind.

This may have started innocently, with a confused young woman needing a break from the pressures of student life. But it isn't ending well. Maura, if you're alive, if you're able, come home.

And if she's not, there's someone, somewhere who has some idea of what happened that night.

## **The Patriot Ledger, March 3, 2004, Leads fruitless, police stalled in Murray probe, Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger  
Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Leads fruitless, police stalled in Murray probe  
By Joe McGee

Police investigating the disappearance of Hanson native Maura Murray have discovered that the disturbing phone conversation Murray had four days before leaving the University of Massachusetts at Amherst was with her sister.

According to her family, Murray called her sister, Kathleen Murray of Hanover, at about 10 p.m. Feb. 5, four days before she packed her belongings and headed north to New Hampshire. But what was said should not have upset the 21-year-old, Kathleen Murray said.

We didn't really talk about much. I had been fighting with my fiance', and we talked about that, but I don't know why she would be upset about that, Kathleen said.

Maura Murray's Saturn sedan crashed on Route 112 near Haverhill in northern New Hampshire at about 7 p.m. Feb. 9, hours after Murray left campus. She was gone when police arrived about 10 minutes later.

There were no footprints in the snow, and search dogs could not pick up her scent.

With the investigation well past the search-and-rescue phase, police are at a standstill trying to determine why Murray, a promising student and athlete, appears to have walked away from her college life.

A number of fresh leads have developed during the past three weeks, but none have proved fruitful, according to New Hampshire State Police Sgt. Bret Beausoleil. Nobody knows if Murray wandered into the woods and perished or if she was kidnapped.

The more time that goes by, the more concerned you get, but there is nothing we have found to point one way or the other, Beausoleil said.

Murray left UMass on the afternoon of Feb. 9. She cleaned out her dorm room as if she were leaving for good; did a MapQuest search for directions to Burlington, Vt.; took \$280 in cash out of her bank account; and E-mailed her bosses and professors to say she would be away for personal reasons.

Kathleen Murray said she talked to her sister regularly to chat. Like all of their phone conversations, the one on Feb. 5 was about regular stuff, just-trying-to-get-through-the-day' kinds of things, she said.

When I heard she was crying after that, I couldn't understand why, especially because it's not like her to cry, she said.

Last week, Kathleen Murray and her brother Fred found a pair of women's underwear on a roadside in Haverhill. DNA testing had not been completed as of yesterday.

Sgt. Beausoleil said another tip, from a woman who was walking on Route 112 in Bath, N.H., on Feb. 9, also could not help investigators develop a criminal case.

The woman reported a suspicious man in a red pickup truck with Massachusetts plates eyeing her near the Stage Stop general store in Bath at about 7 that night.

According to the woman, the man left when she went into the store and headed east toward the accident scene. Ten minutes later, the woman saw Haverhill police go by in the same direction, responding to the accident.

She didn't have a license plate number, so that doesn't give us anything, Beausoleil said. We don't feel confident it's connected.

Joe McGee may be reached at [jmcgee@ledger.com](mailto:jmcgee@ledger.com).

**The Boston Channel, March 4, 2004, Family, Friends Pray For Woman's Safe Return -  
Maura Murray Last Seen Feb. 9**

The Boston Channel  
March 4, 2004

Family, Friends Pray For Woman's Safe Return  
Maura Murray Last Seen Feb. 9

DUXBURY, Mass. -- Family and friends of a missing Hanson woman say they will not give up the search for the college student.

University of Massachusetts student Maura Murray, 21, disappeared in New Hampshire nearly one month ago.

NewsCenter 5's Pam Cross reported that Murray's family, frustrated by police efforts to find her, say they plan to search on their own in northern New Hampshire.

In Duxbury Thursday, a small group of Murray's mother's friends held a Mass to pray for her safe return.

The simple service, led by a priest, was small, prayerful and emotional. Murray's mother and grandmother sat in front.

Murray was last seen Feb. 9. After she left her UMass dorm, she had a car accident in Haverhill, N.H. But before police arrived to help, she disappeared, leaving her car behind.

With no evidence of foul play, authorities say it's a missing person case, but her family disagrees.

"She was abducted. She would have called. She would have called. She didn't run away. She was abducted," said Murray's mother, Laurie.

A week ago, Murray's sister found women's underwear a few miles from where Murray's car was left. The underwear is being tested for DNA. This weekend, Murray's brother and sister will search again.

"I don't like them taking the investigation in their own hands, that scares me, too. Because my daughter was out walking in the woods by herself," said Laurie Murray of her other children.

Friends say there is little they can do, except offer support to the family.

"We have no idea. We are not giving up hope. We hope Maura is found and we are praying for her safe return," said family friend Maureen Walsh.

Murray's mother feels strongly that her daughter has not stayed away of her own free will. But with few clues to go on, she said she found comfort and hope in Thursday's service.

## **The Patriot Ledger, March 9, 2004, Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mysterious Miss: Closest friends say missing UMass student kept deepest feelings to herself

By Joe McGee

AMHERST - Kate Markopoulos considers herself one of Maura Murray's closest friends and yet knows she had a mysterious side."I really didn't know (everything) about her, so now I don't find it so hard to believe" Murray's disappearance from the University of Massachusetts, she said. She is struggling these days to figure out why Murray packed up her dormitory room a month ago today and took off for New Hampshire. Murray, a Hanson native, crashed on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., that Monday night and hasn't been seen or heard from since. Theories include that she is hiding out, was kidnapped, or wandered away disoriented and perished in the rugged, snowy woods. But what made her leave campus in the first place? She took care of stuff on her own. That's Maura," said Markopoulos, a senior history major from upstate New York who ran track with Murray for a year.

Murray, an excellent student and athlete at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School, enjoyed challenges like hiking in the White Mountains. When she scored 1420 of a possible 1600 on her SATs, everyone knew she was headed for big things. After graduating in 2000, she was accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where her older sister was a cadet. She had excellent marks and was a great runner," her boyfriend, Army Lt. Bill Rausch, said. Rausch met Maura through Julie Murray, his classmate at West Point. She was a top student, in great shape and, of course, extremely beautiful," Rausch said.

For Murray, life appeared good at West Point. Things change at West Point. Then one day things changed. Military life wasn't for Maura, after all. Rausch said West Point does that to people. His class started with 1,200 and finished with 900. That's the great thing about West Point. It forces you to grow up quick and figure out exactly what you want," he said. To Murray's father, Fred Murray of Weymouth, it was a surprise but not a total shock that she wanted to pursue a nursing degree at UMass. He graduated from the school and Maura's mother, Laurie, is a nurse. The decision to leave West Point after her freshman year wasn't a rash one, Rausch said. The couple researched the transfer and it was a smooth transition. The couple figured that making new friends at UMass would be hard for Murray. After all, she would be entering her sophomore year and social cliques were already set. One day, UMass track coach Julie LaFreniere introduced Murray to her teammates. Markopoulos remembered it as the typical, awkward group introduction. At first, she noticed Murray was quiet and at times elusive."

Planning marriage, starting career Their birthdays are 11 days apart. Their friendship blossomed last year when they turned 21. Then a new Murray came out - someone who could be somewhat flirtatious" when she drank. All along, however, she was focused on settling down with Rausch and starting a career, said Markopoulos. She held two jobs so she could fly to Oklahoma, where Rausch is stationed at Fort Sill. She planned to move there after graduation. When Rausch visited Amherst during vacations, they'd do what many couples do on the weekends: hiking in the mountains, shopping for antiques and visiting book stores in Western Massachusetts. Basically, any time together was time well spent," Rausch said. Their life together was beginning to take shape. We

really considered ourselves engaged. We actually were looking for rings over Christmas break," Rausch said.

On the afternoon of Feb. 9, Murray acted like she wanted to drop everything she worked hard for in life. She packed up her belongings in her room on the fourth floor of the John F. Kennedy residence hall, including wall decorations. She left messages for professors and bosses, lying about a death in the family. Then she loaded her Saturn sedan, a car that friends said she hadn't started in weeks, and took off. Her dorm mates didn't even notice she was gone. I didn't even know she lived here," said Kelli Martinson, a freshman from Hull who lived five doors down from Murray.

Can't figure out what went wrong. Even after four weeks, E-mails continue to go back and forth between friends from Hanson and friends at UMass, trying to figure out what went wrong. Nobody has been able to offer frustrated investigators much about their friend's background. Katie Jones, Murray's childhood friend and a student at Western New England College in Springfield, said although they've lived a few miles apart, they never visited each other at school. She was a very secretive person," Jones said. She never even told us about transferring to UMass until after it happened. Sometimes we think there might be more to that story than we know," she said.

Sophomore Sara Alfieri is just as puzzled. She and Murray met while working at art galleries on campus, drawn to each other because of their sarcastic attitudes and love of things ironic. Kept biggest problems to herself. She was so funny. She loved the web site The Onion. Her favorite movie is. Bottle Rocket," Alfieri said.

Despite being so close, Murray never talked about her friends at home, a group of seven girls at Whitman-Hanson who Jones said were inseparable. Murray kept even her biggest problems to herself. She didn't say a word to Alfieri about getting into an accident in her father's car the day before she left Amherst. The accident happened only an hour after they were hanging out in Alfieri's dorm.

Alfieri said Markopoulos, Murray and a few friends were drinking into the late-night hours of Feb. 8. Fred Murray was staying in a hotel on Route 9 that weekend. He was in town to help his daughter find a new car. Father and daughter ate dinner at the Amherst Brewing Co., a popular watering hole, that night. Then Markopoulos showed up for a drink. After about an hour, they left, the girls dropped Fred Murray at his hotel, and headed to Alfieri's dorm.

Everyone's left wondering. At about 1 a.m., Alfieri said she was passed out from drinking. Markopoulos was still up with Murray and they were talking about going home at about 2:30 a.m. But Murray wanted to go to her father's hotel, according to Markopoulos.

I told her just to go back to her room and meet him in the morning, but she wouldn't listen," she said. About an hour later, Murray cracked up her father's Toyota Corolla on Route 9. Alfieri found out the next week from news reports about her friend's disappearance. I thought that was so weird. I talked to her that day and she didn't even say anything," said Alfieri Now everybody is wondering about what they don't know about Maura Murray. If she can't figure it out after three years of friendship, Markopoulos said nobody might ever know. Joe McGee may be reached at [jmcgee@ledger.com](mailto:jmcgee@ledger.com).



## **The Caldedonian-Record, March 24, 2004, Missing Woman Investigation - Potential Evidence Discounted, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caldedonian-Record  
Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Missing Woman Investigation  
Potential Evidence Discounted  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Maura Murray's friends and relatives were breathing a bit easier Tuesday after learning underwear found off a road in the town of Haverhill did not belong to her.

Murray, a 21-year-old nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, turned up missing the evening of Feb. 9 after she was involved in a one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill. The accident scene was about one mile east of Swiftwater.

"The DNA (tests) came back yesterday ... negative," Sharon Rausch said. "We are very glad. We are very hopeful." Rausch is the mother of Billie Rausch, Murray's fiance-to-be.

Murray's sister, Kathleen, found a white pair of underpants lying on top of the snow on a secluded trail off of French Pond Road Feb. 26.

Kathleen turned them over to the Haverhill Police Department who in turn handed it over to the New Hampshire State Police.

Maura's hair brush and a toothbrush were provided to the state police crime lab in Concord along with the underwear for testing.

Although it turns out the underwear did not belong to Murray, and that provides a glimmer of hope, Rausch said the family is also realistic. "None of us believe she is willfully in hiding," she said. "But we are hopeful."

Rausch said Murray has money in her bank account. However, that money has not been touched. Her credit cards have not been used. Nor has her cell phone since the accident at around 7 p.m. Feb. 9.

Rausch said she will never give up hope. She said she was praying on her way home from work Tuesday that something would help lead them to Murray.

She recalled the miraculous story of how Elizabeth Smart had been found and returned safely to her family in Salt Lake City, Utah, in March 2003 after being held captive by a couple since June 5, 2002.

"I lost my father when I was 9," Rausch said. "My mother died when I was 31. Both of those events were very hard. But nothing has been as hard as this."

Although Murray and her son had not yet married, Rausch, with her voice quivering, said Murray's disappearance is even more difficult because she is like a daughter to her.

Whenever Murray enters a room, she said, her big, dazzling smile just brightens it up.

According to Butch Atwood, a First Student school bus driver who lives about 100 yards from where Murray lost control of her 1996 black Saturn after rounding a sharp left-hand curve near The Weathered Barn on Route 112, Murray refused help from him when he stopped.

In a renewed effort to get the word out about Murray's disappearance and jog people's memories, Rausch said 15,000 8- by 10-inch color posters of the 21-year-old have been made up.

Bethlehem Fire Chief Jack Anderson, who is also the president of the Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Association, tentatively has agreed to have firefighters throughout the twin states help distribute about 1,000 of the posters. "We will try and help through our 26 towns," Anderson said. "It's a good cause. We have to find that girl." He said he feels for Murray's family and friends.

Rausch said she also has enlisted the help of Beth Drewniak of Hanson, Mass., to help distribute the posters. She said Drewniak's daughter grew up with Murray. "We are hoping \$40,000 will (jog) someone's memory," she said.

The posters show a picture of Murray with her classic big smile and dimples. It says \$40,000 will be paid for any information leading to her safe return.

She is 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighs 115 pounds, has blue-green eyes and curly brown hair.

People with any information should call the New Hampshire State Police at 603-271-3636. Anyone who may have seen Murray can also call the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

**The New Hampshire Union Leader, March 26, 2004. Effort to find missing woman continues**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
March 26, 2004

Effort to find missing woman continues

HAVERHILL (AP) -- In a renewed effort to find a Massachusetts woman missing in northern New Hampshire, family and friends have begun distributing thousands of new posters and have announced a larger reward.

Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass., disappeared Feb. 9 after a minor accident in Haverhill.

Her family has printed 15,000 new posters carrying her photo and has announced the reward leading to her whereabouts has risen to \$40,000.

Firefighters in 26 Vermont and New Hampshire communities in the Haverhill area are being enlisted to help distribute the posters.

## **The New Hampshire Union Leader, March 28, 2004, Murray's father wants FBI to help**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
March 28, 2004

Murray's father wants FBI to help

CONCORD (AP) -- The father of a missing University of Massachusetts nursing student has asked Gov. Craig Benson for help to get the FBI involved in the case.

Fred Murray of Weymouth, Mass., wants the governor to urge New Hampshire State Police to call in the FBI for help in finding Maura Murray.

She has been missing since the evening of Feb. 9 after a minor accident in which she failed to make a curve on Route 112 outside Haverhill.

"The finest resource in the world is available and you, sir, should direct" state police to seek FBI help, Murray said in his letter. "There are corollary cases in Vermont also and this entire situation begs for central coordination and investigation by an agency which is not bound by the confines of configuration of Grafton County and the Connecticut River."

Murray referred to Brianna Maitland, 17, of Sheldon, Vt., who disappeared after she left work late on March 19. Her car was found about one mile from the restaurant in Montgomery, Vt., where she worked.

Murray said the FBI offered its assistance during the week of his daughter's disappearance, but state police declined the offer.

State police Lt. John Scarinza has said state police have enough resources to conduct the investigation.

Benson's office released a statement that said he "has complete faith in the efforts of the New Hampshire State Police in the manner in which this case is being handled."

The office included a letter from state police Col. Frederick Booth that said investigators have contacted Massachusetts police, Vermont State Police, FBI and many surrounding county and local police agencies.

## **The Caledonian-Record, March 29, 2004, Vermont Woman Turns Out Missing After Car Crash, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
March 29, 2004

Vermont Woman Turns Out Missing After Car Crash  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Another young woman has turned up missing after a car accident on a dark, rural highway - this time in Vermont.

Brianna Maitland, 17, of Sheldon, Vt., has disappeared after being involved in a one-car accident late at night on the East Berkshire Road in northern Vermont.

This comes on the heels of the disappearance of Maura Murray, a 21-year-old nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has not been seen since she was involved in a one-car accident on a dark stretch of rural Route 112 in the town of Haverhill, N.H., Feb. 9.

Maitland was working at the Black Lantern in Montgomery March 19, when she clocked out at 11:20 p.m. and headed to her friend's house in Sheldon, where she was living. She had even left her friend a note saying what time she would be home from work.

She never made it.

Her car was found by police early the morning of March 20, with its rear end in an abandoned building. The car was about a mile from the Black Lantern, where Maitland is a dishwasher.

However, Maitland's parents were not notified about the accident although the car is registered to the mother, Kellie.

It wasn't until Tuesday, March 23, when Brianna's friends contacted the Maitlands, that they became aware something was wrong.

"They asked us if Brianna had moved back in with us," Bruce Maitland said. It was the first he and his wife had heard she was missing.

The Maitlands contacted state police in St. Albans to file a missing person's report. Troopers told them an all points bulletin would be put out about Brianna and her 1988 Oldsmobile.

State police did not draw any connection between Brianna and the car, until Thursday morning, nearly a week after the accident. The Maitlands were called about the Oldsmobile. Bruce Maitland said it was her car.

The Maitlands don't understand why state police did not call them after finding the car because the car is registered in Kellie's name.

"That was a huge error on their part," Bruce Maitland said. "I asked why we weren't notified. They said the telephone number did not match the address. All they would have had to do was look in the telephone book."

He said the state police have been very leery about sharing information with the family. "I gave them a good lead, the only one they have," he said. He did not want to publicly divulge what it was because he didn't want to compromise the investigation.

The Maitlands have also turned something else over to state police, a woman's jacket found near the accident scene. "It had a wallet with a woman's name and credit cards," Bruce Maitland said.

He said it appeared the woman was from California and had recently moved to Vermont. It also appeared she was a certified ski instructor.

With his daughter missing, as well as Murray, now finding this woman's jacket, Maitland is worried there may be someone in the area preying on young women.

Kellie Maitland is upset because state police have said they believe her daughter just took off.

She said a co-worker supposedly told troopers Brianna had said she was going to take off on a short trip.

Kellie Maitland does not believe that because she said her daughter was doing really well. She had recently passed her GED with flying colors, and worked at the Black Lantern and as a hostess at KJ's Diner in St. Albans.

"Her jobs are going well," Kellie Maitland said. "She has been upbeat. Everything seemed fine."

She also doesn't believe her daughter hit a patch of ice and slid off the road into the building. "I saw the pictures (of the accident scene)," Kellie Maitland said. "I know it was not her doing."

And she also does not believe Brianna just took off. "There weren't any keys in the car," she said. "And her two paychecks were on the front seat untouched."

Also, her ATM card, medication, makeup, clothes and contact lenses were still at her friend's house.

"She is very pretty," Kellie Maitland said. "I saw her earlier in the day (March 19). I had taken her shopping to get her dress slacks. She had a good time."

Brianna is 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs 105 pounds, has hazel eyes and medium length brown hair.

She also has a nose stud in her left nostril and a faint scar in her left eyebrow.

Kellie Maitland said her daughter, if she were planning a trip, would have come to her for money. She doesn't understand why state police are treating this as a young woman taking off.

"I don't want anyone else going through what Maura's family is going through," Kellie Maitland said.

State police in Vermont have not been available to talk about the Maitland investigation. Detective Sgt. Heidi Glynn was unavailable for comment Friday and Sunday.

When Sharon Rausch heard another young woman has turned up missing, under similar circumstances, and that state police are treating the case as a missing person rather than a criminal investigation, she was upset.

"It's like living it all over again," said Rausch, whose son, Billie, is Maura Murray's fiance-to-be. "I feel so sorry for her."

New Hampshire State Police had not heard about Maitland's disappearance in Vermont.

People with information about Maitland should call Vermont State Police at 802-524-5993.

Anyone with information about Murray should contact New Hampshire State Police at 603-271-3636.

**The Caledonian-Record, March 31, 2004, VSP Forensics Team Studies Missing Teen's Car,  
Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
March 31, 2004

VSP Forensics Team Studies Missing Teen's Car  
By Gary E. Lindsley

A forensics team from the Vermont State Police lab in Waterbury began poring over a missing teenager's car Tuesday to obtain possible evidence, including whether foul play may have been involved in her disappearance.

Brianna Maitland, 17, of Sheldon, has been missing since she left the Black Lantern in Montgomery at 11:20 p.m. March 19. Her 1985 Oldsmobile sedan was found partially ensconced in an abandoned building off of East Berkshire Road, about a mile from the Black Lantern where she worked as a dishwasher.

Lt. Thomas Nelson, who is in charge of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation at the St. Albans barracks, said the forensics team began its investigation around 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Nelson said one of the things the team will be looking for is any sign of a struggle which may have occurred the night Maitland disappeared.

"The initial investigation did not show there was a violent struggle," he said. "We hope it's not a crime."

The Oldsmobile was discovered by a neighbor around 1:22 a.m. March 20, according to Nelson. The vehicle had sustained minor damage.

"It looked like it had been backed into the building," he said. "It did not look like a regular accident."

Kellie Maitland, Brianna's mother, also believes her daughter was not in an accident. She believes someone else was involved and forced the car into the building.

Maitland, and her husband, Bruce, are upset because they were never notified the car had been found, although Kellie is the registered owner.

The Maitlands were told by Brianna's friends March 23 she was missing and they filed a missing person report. State police did not mention anything about the car being found.

It wasn't until Thursday, nearly a week after Brianna's disappearance that investigators made a connection between the car and Brianna's disappearance, according to the Maitlands.

Nelson said he cannot say why the Maitlands were not notified March 20 when the car was found.



The reason could have been, according to Nelson, that the car was on private property and it didn't look like it had been involved in an accident.

"Oftentimes, people do leave their cars beside the road because maybe they had too much to drink," he said.

Also, it wasn't apparent to investigators Brianna had been the last person to drive the vehicle. However, the Maitlands said Brianna's paychecks were in the car.

Nelson said a couple of ground and air searches have been conducted of the area around the accident scene, although the area between the accident scene and the Black Lantern has not been searched. The searches have involved K-9 units and a helicopter from the Vermont National Guard.

"Troopers have done walks through the fields," Nelson said. "The search has been concentrated." So far, he said, nothing has turned up.

Regarding a woman's jacket which the Maitlands found in the area near the accident scene, Nelson said he does not believe there is any connection to Brianna's disappearance. However, he also said investigators haven't located the owner of the jacket yet.

When asked if investigators were looking at a possible connection between Brianna's disappearance in northern Vermont and the Feb. 9 disappearance of 21-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student Maura Murray, Nelson said they have not made any direct connection between the two cases.

"We never rule anything out," he said. "We will talk to (New Hampshire State Police)."

Murray, who is a resident of Hanson, Mass., disappeared the night of Feb. 9 after she had a car accident on a dark stretch of Route 112 in the town of Haverhill, N.H., about a mile east of the hamlet of Swiftwater.

Murray failed to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve past The Weathered Barn. In another development, the Klaaskids Foundation, which was established in 1994 after Polly Klaas was abducted and murdered, has offered the Maitlands assistance searching for their daughter. The foundation's search center director Brad Dennis has spoken with them about how he can assist them.

Dennis said the foundation also is working on contacting news groups nationally to help with finding Brianna. Nelson said he would be more than willing to talk with people from the foundation's search center. People with any information about Brianna, who is 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs 105 pounds, has hazel eyes and medium length brown hair, should call Vermont State Police at 802-524-5993. Brianna has a nose stud in her left nostril and a faint scar in her left eyebrow.

## **The Caledonian Record, April 2, 2004, K-9 Teams To Search For Murray, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian Record  
Friday, April 2, 2004

K-9 Teams To Search For Murray  
By Gary E. Lindsley

HAVERHILL NEW HAMPSHIRE - Family and friends say they have not given up hope that 21-year-old Maura Murray, of Hanson, Mass., will be found.

Although an official air and ground search was declared concluded by New Hampshire Fish and Game and Troop F State Police officials in February, K-9 teams from the Adirondack Rescue Dog Association will resume their search of the Haverhill area this weekend.

Sharon Rausch, whose son, Billy, is Murray's fiance-to-be, said she, her son and Murray's family have not given up hope she will be found and safely returned.

However, Rausch said they also know a lot of time has elapsed since Murray's black 1996 Saturn was found off the road near The Weathered Barn along Route 112, about a mile east of the hamlet of Swiftwater, Feb. 9.

This weekend, like last weekend, K-9 teams from the Adirondack Rescue Dog Association will conduct a search of the area surrounding the accident site.

Rausch said one of the teams is Marilyn Greene, a team trainer and private investigator, and her K-9, Buddy, from Guilderland, N.Y.

Fred Murray, Maura's father, said he was impressed by the teams when they searched the area last weekend. He will be returning to the accident scene this weekend to search areas not being searched by the K-9 teams.

On another front, Rausch is enlisting the help of University of Massachusetts at Amherst officials. Maura was a junior nursing student there.

Rausch is asking them to send an e-mail message to the university's 40,000 students through a blind e-mailer between April 15 and 20.

The e-mail will read, "Please help us find Maura. Please forward this to all the contacts in your address book."

The e-mail will contain information about what Maura looks like as well as information about the accident which she was involved in the night of Feb. 9.

"It will literally (reach) hundreds of thousands of people," Rausch said.

She is holding off sending out the e-mail right now because about 15,000 posters are being distributed in Vermont and New Hampshire, as well as at UMass.

Rausch also wants to do something special for Maura's 22nd birthday May 4. Initially, she wanted to have balloons released.

However, she said the family and friends will ask people to tie blue ribbons around trees as well as to their car antennas.

The following message also will be released May 4: "Maura's family prays for her safe return on her birthday."

Maura is 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighs 115 pounds, has blue-green eyes and curly brown hair.

She is soft-spoken and is an avid runner, logging between five and six miles daily.

People with any information should call the New Hampshire State Police at 603-271-3636, or the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

**The New Hampshire Union Leader/ Pittsfield Berkshire Eagle / Portsmouth Herald / Boston Globe, April 4, 2004, More searches set for Mass. woman - Family still hoping to find missing woman**

Pittsfield Berkshire Eagle / Portsmouth Herald / Boston Globe / The New Hampshire Union Leader  
April 4, 2004

Note: The Portsmouth Herald has additional paragraphs and some alternative wording in italics and the New Hampshire Union Leader has some additional words in italics as well.

More searches set for Mass. woman

Family still hoping to find missing woman

HAVERHILL, N.H. (AP) — Family and friends continued their search this weekend for a Massachusetts woman who disappeared after a car accident in northern New Hampshire in February.

"I'll never give up hope," the missing woman's mother, Laurie Murray, said through tears yesterday. Although state officials ended their search weeks ago, K-9 *dog* teams from the Adirondack Rescue Dog Association resumed searching the Haverhill area for any sign of Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass.

Police have said there is no evidence of foul play and are treating the disappearance as a missing person investigation.\* Numerous searches, using dogs and helicopter, turned up no sign that Murray wandered into the snow-covered woods and led police to say Murray may have wanted to get away on her own for a while.\*

Searchers found no signs of struggle at the scene, and it appears Murray was planning a getaway. She lied to professors about a death in the family, and said she would be gone from class for the week. Then she packed her belongings as if she was moving out. Police said Murray may have wanted to get away for a while.

Her mother said she doesn't buy it.

*From her home in Hanson, Mrs. Murray said she doesn't buy it.*

"Two months, and there have been no clues, nothing. Isn't that odd." she said. Laurie Murray, whose daughter attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, said she planned to travel to the Haverhill area today to deliver a message to police.

*The distraught mother/Mrs. Murray said she planned to travel to the Haverhill area on Sunday to deliver a message to police.*

*Mrs. Murray said she also wants to help distribute new fliers announcing that the reward for information leading to Maura Murray has risen to \$40,000 Sharon Rausch, whose son, Billy, is Murray's boyfriend, said she her son and Murray's family have not given up hope she will be found and safely returned.*

"She's not a runaway," she said. "She was abducted. She would never not call her family."

*Fred Murray, the missing woman's father, said he was impressed by the teams when they searched the area last weekend. He was returning to the scene this weekend to search areas not being searched by the K 9 teams.*

*Meanwhile, Rausch is enlisting the help of University of Massachusetts at Amherst officials. Murray was a junior nursing student there Rausch is asking them to send an e mail message to students this month reading: "Please help us find Maura. Please forward this to all the contacts in your address book." The email will contain a description of Murray and information about the accident on the night of Feb. 9. "It will literally (reach) hundreds of thousands of people," Rausch said.*

**The Caledonian-Record, April 8, 2004, America's Most Wanted Producers Decline To Profile Missing Woman Case Seventeen Magazine To Publish Story, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 8, 2004

America's Most Wanted Producers Decline To Profile Missing Woman Case Seventeen Magazine To Publish Story  
By Gary E. Lindsley

The television show "America's Most Wanted" will not profile the case of a 21-year-old University of Massachusetts nursing student who disappeared the night of Feb. 9 after she was involved in a one-car crash on Route 112 in Haverhill.

Maura Murray, a resident of Hanson, Mass., and a junior at the UMass Amherst campus, was driving a black 1996 Saturn at about 7 p.m. when she failed to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve and went off the right side of Route 112 after driving past The Weathered Barn.

Jeremy Cohen, managing editor for "America's Most Wanted," says Murray's case will not be profiled on the Fox network's TV show.

"I know about the case," Cohen said. "I have been aware of it since it happened. Unfortunately, we can't do many missing cases at all."

He says the show devotes most of its missing people air time to cases involving children.

"As for adults," Cohen said, "we only do it when there is clear evidence of a crime."

Unless it's clear to the show's producers a crime has been committed, a case won't be aired.

"It's been our experience when we can't tell our viewers what to look for, we don't get a response," he said. "We save our space on our show (for a case) only if it would be successful. Unfortunately, we turn down a lot of cases."

While "America's Most Wanted" officials are refusing to profile Murray's case, Seventeen, a magazine geared toward 12- to 24-year-old girls and young women, is very interested.

Members of the magazine's staff have been interviewing Murray's friends and family members. Elizabeth Dye, a spokeswoman for Seventeen, said there isn't a run date yet for the story, though she feels it should resonate among the magazine's subscribers.

"We feel like other young women can learn from circumstances from everyday situations," Dye said. "We also believe there is a community of readers out there who may be able to help."

She said Seventeen's readers will be able to identify with Murray.

Dye said Seventeen's circulation is 2.1 million readers, but she estimates the magazine actually reaches about 14 million people through its presence in doctors' offices, libraries and other venues.

Fred Murray, Maura's father, has been searching the area where his daughter had her accident every weekend since he was notified. He was not happy with the decision of "America's Most Wanted."

"I am really disappointed," Murray said. "It has an extensive audience and is so influential."

Lt. John Scarinza of New Hampshire State Police Troop F and Haverhill Police Chief Jeffery Williams both have said they, too, would welcome the TV show profiling the case.

If the show did profile Maura's disappearance, he said, maybe someone somewhere in the country, who may have been traveling through the Haverhill, N.H., area the night of Feb. 9, may recall seeing something. Or they may remember having seen her get on a bus somewhere.

"It's just the national scope of it," he said. "Plus, it would put pressure on the state police to call in the FBI. You have two close to one another, geographically and chronologically."

Murray was referring to not only his own daughter, but also to Brianna Maitland, 17, who has been missing since leaving work late the night of March 19. Maitland's car was found with its rear end in an abandoned building about a mile from the Black Lantern in Montgomery, Vt., during the early-morning hours of March 20. She hasn't been seen since.

Murray, though, is happy Seventeen magazine will be profiling his daughter.

"I will take any help I possibly can get," he said. "Everything helps."

Sharon Rausch, whose son, Billy, is Maura's boyfriend, is also glad Seventeen is interested.

"I am thrilled," Rausch said. "This has been in the works for awhile."

She said the magazine had sent an e-mail to Maura Murray's Web site, [www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html](http://www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html), leaving a message they were interested in publishing a piece.

Maura is 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighs 115 pounds, and has blue-green eyes and curly brown hair. Anyone with information should call the New Hampshire State Police at 603-271-3636, or the Haverhill Police Department at 603-787-2222.

## **The Caledonian-Record, April 9, 2004, Vermont, N.H. State Police Rule Out Connection Between Disappearances Search Resumes For Vermont Teen, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 9, 2004

Vermont, N.H. State Police Rule Out Connection Between Disappearances - Search Resumes For Vermont Teen  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Vermont and New Hampshire state police say there isn't a connection between the disappearances of two young women within the past couple of months.

They say both disappeared after their vehicles were involved in motor vehicle accidents, but that is the extent of the similarity.

Maura Murray, a 21-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student from Hanson, Mass., has been missing since she was involved in a one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., the night of Feb. 9.

Brianna Maitland, 17, of Sheldon, Vt., has been missing since she left work at the Black Lantern in Montgomery the night of March 19. Her car was found the next morning with its rear end partially inside an abandoned building about a mile from the Black Lantern on the East Berkshire Road.

"We have been in contact with Vermont State Police several times," said Lt. John Scarinza of New Hampshire State Police Troop F.

He said there aren't any similarities other than Murray and Maitland disappeared after accidents.

Lt. Thomas Nelson of the Vermont State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation at the St. Albans barracks, also said there isn't a connection.

Bruce Maitland, Brianna's father, said the family and friends will be conducting another search for her this weekend.

Maitland said a command center will be set up at the East Franklin Store. A search will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday. The phone number at the store is 802-933-4100.

The family received help with a major search last weekend from Brad Dennis of the Klaaskids Foundation Search Center. The foundation was established in 1994 after Polly Klaas was abducted and murdered.

Maitland said the experience was invaluable and will help the family conduct another search this weekend.

During the search last weekend, duct tape and clothing were found and turned over to state police. However, Nelson says none of it was connected to Brianna's disappearance.



Maitland said a lot of tips have been received. He praised VSP for doing a good job, although he believes they made mistakes in the beginning.

On the other hand, Fred Murray, Maura's father, is upset with the response of New Hampshire State Police in its investigation into his daughter's disappearance and what he says is law enforcement's reluctance to get the FBI fully involved.

Murray is going to be speaking with Scarinza today to appeal to him to bring the FBI in. He also is asking for the public's help.

"I am appealing to the public," he said "I want people to walk their fence lines and their property. Get help if you need it."

"She could have ducked up a driveway and around a house," Murray went on to say. "And I am not just appealing to people in New Hampshire. I am also appealing to people in Vermont, especially since a young girl in Vermont is missing."

When members of Maura's family searched her 1996 black Saturn after her disappearance, they found information indicating Maura may have intended on going to the Stowe and Burlington areas in Vermont.

People with information about Maitland should call Vermont State Police at 802-524-5993.

Anyone with information about Murray should contact New Hampshire State Police at 603-271-3636.

**The Caledonian-Record, April 10, 2004, Murray's Family Enlists Help From Psychic Profiler, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 10, 2004

Murray's Family Enlists Help From Psychic Profiler  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Maura Murray's family has enlisted the help of a nationally known psychic profiler to help them find her.

Murray, a 21-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student from Hanson, Mass., has not been seen since she was involved in a one-car accident in Haverhill, N.H. Feb. 9.

Carla Baron of Los Angeles, Calif., has come up with a theory about what happened to Murray the night her car failed to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve after driving by The Weathered Barn.

Baron, along with Maura's father, Fred, want to reserve some of the information so New Hampshire State Police can have a chance to act on it.

She believes Maura was picked up by someone passing through the area where the accident occurred.

"I believe she is no longer with us," Baron said.

She has told Maura's father she believes Maura met with foul play.

Baron, a psychic profiler who helped lead police to finding the body of a man who had committed suicide in a cornfield in the Midwest, has provided Fred Murray with a description of the person who picked her up as well as the type of vehicle.

She has also told him in what kind of an area Maura can be found.

"I have been in touch with Maura," Baron said.

Maura met with foul play the same night as the accident, she said.

What really concerns Murray, is what else Baron has told her. She has told him there is another woman who can be found near Maura who has fallen victim to the same person. And, Baron also told him there have been others.

Murray does not want too many details released right away to the public until the state police have had time to analyze the information and search possible locations.

Baron has been able to obtain somewhat of a description about the man as well as where she can possibly be found by talking twice with Maura's father via the telephone for a total of about 21/2 hours.

"It's called remote viewing," she said, referring to how she obtained the information about what happened to Maura by talking to her father.

Murray said he spoke with Lt. John Scarinza and others from New Hampshire State Police Troop F Friday.

"I gave them my theory that someone picked her up," he said.

He asked them, again, to bring in the FBI and make a direct appeal to the public for any information they may have in helping find his daughter.

"I asked him if he would accept help from a nationally known psychic," Murray said.

He said Scarinza mentioned they had been contacted by other psychics.

"They said they would accept help from a psychic," he said.

Murray is hoping state police and Baron talk soon.

Baron has appeared in episodes of "Psychic Detectives" on Court TV and will be seen in a segment of ABC's "Primetime" at 10 p.m. Thursday.

Anyone with information about Murray should contact New Hampshire State Police at 603-271-3636.

**Boston Globe, April 11, 2004, Missing student's kin skeptical of psychic, Peter DeMarco**

Boston Globe

April 11, 2004

Missing student's kin skeptical of psychic

By Peter DeMarco

Maura Murray's parents have reacted with skepticism to a nationally known psychic profiler who believes the missing college student was abducted and murdered after vanishing from a rural New Hampshire road on Feb. 9.

"I don't believe her," said Laurie Murray, of Hanson, whose daughter disappeared without a trace after crashing her car into a snowbank in Woodsville, N.H. "I don't believe in [psychics] at all."

Murray's father, Fred Murray, of Weymouth, said he was not sure whether to believe California profiler Carla Baron, who said she has had psychic visions of his daughter's abduction and death.

But with law enforcement officials at a loss to explain his 21-year-old daughter's disappearance, Fred Murray said he is willing to listen to anyone offering help.

"About five or six psychics have contacted me. I have no idea whether they know what they're talking about or not," he said. "If they're wrong, they're wrong. It's worth a try, [as] the police seem to be out of ideas and there's no information coming forward."

Murray, who believes his daughter was abducted, said he contacted Baron a few weeks ago after being told of her strong track record with missing persons cases. The California psychic said she has helped dozens of police departments with homicide and missing persons cases over the past 20 years.

Baron said yesterday that after speaking with Fred Murray on the phone, she saw visions of Maura Murray and received messages from her in the form of thoughts.

Baron said she believes Murray hitched a ride with "a clean-cut looking man" in a truck following her car accident the night of Feb. 9. The man then sexually assaulted her and buried her body in a sparsely wooded area that may be a construction site, Baron said.

Her assailant, Baron added, has killed at least one other woman whose body is buried close to Murray's. "He happened to be driving by her. It was an opportunity. That's the thrill for him -- he never knows where the thrill will be," Baron said.

Baron equated her visions to snippets of a movie film, in which she perceives some details but not others. She could not say where Murray was picked up by her assailant, or whether Murray had hitched previous rides.

The psychic said she also was not sure why Murray, a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and former college track star, abruptly packed her belongings the day she

disappeared and drove to New Hampshire without telling any friends or family members of her plans.

Fred Murray said he met with New Hampshire State Police on Friday to inform them about Baron's psychic reading. At his urging, Baron said, she left her contact information with investigators.

Baron, who was featured with psychic John Edwards on the 2003 Court TV program "Psychic Detectives," and has made several television and radio appearances, acknowledged that her readings are often met with skepticism.

While in some instances she has led investigators directly to victims, she said, on other occasions her input is merely a starting point for an investigation.

"Hopefully we can start talking," she said. "Even if there is one little piece of information I have that can assist them in finding where she is, it's [worth it]."

New Hampshire State Police have said they have yet to find evidence of foul play in Murray's disappearance. The lead investigator on the case, John Scarinza, could not be reached yesterday.

**Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise / The New Hampshire Union Leader / Nashua Telegraph / Portsmouth Herald / Lowell Sun, April 11, 2004, Missing UMass student's family turns to psychic**

Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise / The New Hampshire Union Leader / Nashua Telegraph / Portsmouth Herald / Lowell Sun

Sunday, April 11, 2004

Note: The Lowell Sun includes additional detail, in italics at the bottom.

Missing UMass student's family turns to psychic

HAVERHILL, N.H. (AP) — The family of a Massachusetts woman missing in northern New Hampshire for two months turned to a psychic to try to get some answers — and they didn't get good news.

The psychic said she believes the young woman is dead, the victim of a serial killer.

University of Massachusetts nursing student Maura Murray has not been seen since she was involved in a one-car accident in Haverhill on Feb. 9.

Police have said there are no signs of foul play, but her family, and now nationally known psychic Carla Baron say they believe someone picked Murray up after the accident and harmed her.

Baron, of Los Angeles, believes Murray was picked up by a man passing through the area.

"I believe she is no longer with us," Baron said.

Baron, a psychic profiler who helped lead police to finding the body of a man who had committed suicide in a cornfield in the Midwest, has provided Murray's father, Fred, with a description of the person she believes picked up the woman, as well as the type of vehicle.

Fred Murray said Baron also told him there is another woman's body near his daughter's — a victim of the same person. And, Baron told him there have been others.

Murray told the Caledonia Record he does not want too many details released right away so police have time to analyze the information and search possible locations.

He said he spoke with Lt. John Scarinza, who has been in charge of the case, on Friday.

He asked police, again, to bring in the FBI and make a direct appeal to the public for any information they may have in helping find his daughter.

He said Scarinza mentioned police had been contacted by other psychics.

*Meanwhile, Vermont and New Hampshire state police say there is no connection between the disappearances of Murray and a young woman over the border in Vermont.*

*Both disappeared after the next being involved in traffic accidents, but police say that is with its rear where the similarities end. Brianna Maitland, 17, of Sheldon, Vt., has been missing since she left work in Montgomery, Vt., the night of March 19. Her car was found the next morning with its rear end partially inside an abandoned building about a mile away.*

**The New Hampshire Union Leader / Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise, April 12, 2004,  
Parents skeptical of psychic's analysis**

The New Hampshire Union Leader / Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise  
April 12, 2004

Parents skeptical of psychic's analysis

HAVERHILL, N.H. (AP) — The parents of a Massachusetts woman missing in northern New Hampshire for two months reacted with skepticism to a psychic profiler's belief that the young woman was abducted and killed. Maura Murray's father, Fred, contacted the California psychic and is unsure if he believes her, but the missing woman's mother says she is disregarding Carla Baron's belief that Maura Murray was the victim of a serial killer.

## **The Caledonian-Record, April 14, 2004, Family, Friends Warned About Trespassing - Missing Woman, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 14, 2004

Family, Friends Warned About Trespassing - Missing Woman  
By Gary E. Lindsley

HAVERHILL, NH - The investigation into the disappearance of 21-year-old University of Massachusetts nursing student Maura Murray has encountered an odd twist.

Fred Murray, Maura's father, has been warned that he, other family members, friends and canine search teams face possible arrest if they trespass on private property in an area surrounding the site of Maura's accident.

Maura, a Hanson, Mass., resident and junior at the UMass Amherst campus, disappeared after she was involved in a one-car accident the night of Feb. 9 on Route 112 in Haverhill, about a mile east of Swiftwater. Fred Murray received a letter, dated April 2, from Haverhill Police Chief Jeff Williams warning against trespassing.

Williams states in his letter his department has received a written request from area residents complaining about repeated trespassing and parking problems on their properties.

"While they are sympathetic with the cause to find Maura, the right to quiet enjoyment of their personal property has been repeatedly and blatantly disregarded to the point that they now must insist that absolutely no one has permission to trespass on their properties," Williams wrote Murray.

The property owners, according to Williams, are specifically excluding the following from their parking lots and properties: Murray family members, friends and relatives of Maura Murray; volunteer searchers and canine handlers; private investigators; members of the press; and anyone else seeking clues or searching for Maura Murray.

"The Haverhill Police Department will honor their wishes to remove unwanted vehicles and/or ask trespassers to leave immediately," Williams wrote in his letter. "Repeat offenders will be arrested." "Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter." Sharon Rausch, whose son, Billy, is Maura's boyfriend, was flabbergasted when she learned about the letter.

"I am amazed!" Rausch exclaimed. "He gets a written note, not a phone call, that he will be arrested. It's callous. I think it's callous to put something like this in writing."

Murray said if residents living in the area of Maura's accident have been offended by people searching for his daughter, he is certainly sorry. "I have not tried to cause any problems," he said.

However, Murray believes the true intent of Williams' letter is police are trying to discourage any independent searches for Maura. He also believes it is an attempt to reduce the amount of publicity



Maura's disappearance has been receiving. "We have all the interviews we have wanted to do," he said. "I think it's an overreaction on the part of the police department."

If people are upset because of the search for his daughter, though, Murray said he will personally apologize to them. It's much to do about nothing," he said. "We are not worried. We will continue to act responsibly and look for my daughter."

Williams, when contacted Tuesday, would not say when the complaints were filed nor would he divulge how many were submitted to the police department.

The past several weeks of police reports from his department have not indicated there were any trespassing complaints in the area of Maura's accident. Williams said none were noted because he didn't want the people's names known.

"They have been through enough," he said, referring to property owners. "If people are caught on people's properties they will be asked to leave. We will follow the law."

In addition to trespassing, he said people have been blocking vehicles in private driveways. As law enforcers, Williams said police are forced to protect property owners.

"If my daughter was missing, I wouldn't be happy until she was found," he said. "I understand their frustration. Hopefully, we will get to a successful conclusion where Maura is alive."

When asked if he would contact Los Angeles, Calif., psychic profiler Carla Baron regarding any information she may have regarding the case, Williams said, "We don't deal directly with psychics. We deal in evidence."

He did say, though, if she has information regarding Maura, his department will follow up on it.

Baron has claimed she believes Maura "is no longer with us" and may have fallen victim to someone who has killed other women. She also has information about the person's description, vehicle he drives and area where she may be found.

**Boston Globe, April 16, 2004, N.H. Police Consult Psychic on Missing Woman, Peter DeMarco**

Boston Globe  
April 16, 2004

N.H. Police Consult Psychic on Missing Woman  
By Peter DeMarco

New Hampshire State Police interviewed a California psychic yesterday who says she had visions of a man abducting Maura Murray, the Hanson native who disappeared in February after a minor car crash on a rural New Hampshire road.

Lieutenant John Scarinza, the lead investigator, said he spoke with psychic profiler Carla Baron and plans to talk to her again, but he did not share details of their conversation.

Baron, a nationally known psychic, told Fred Murray that she believes his daughter was abducted and killed. Baron said the visions indicated that Murray was buried near another woman abducted by the same man. Scarinza said authorities would consider Baron's psychic visions as they would any other tip. "Mr. Murray has asked us if we could listen to what this woman has to say. We're not close-minded to talking to anyone," he said. Baron was profiled last night on ABC's "Primetime Thursday." She has aided numerous police departments in missing persons and homicide cases.

More than a dozen psychics have called New Hampshire State Police offering assistance with the Murray case, Scarinza said. But Murray's father has only asked police to speak with Baron. Meanwhile, the police chief in Haverhill, N.H., where Maura Murray was last seen, has warned her family members that they could be arrested if they trespass on property surrounding the accident site, according to the Associated Press. Police Chief Jeff Williams said in an April 2 letter to Murray's father that his department has received a written request from area residents complaining about repeated trespassing and parking problems, the AP reported.

Murray's family believes that the 21-year-old woman, a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, was abducted by someone who offered her a ride just minutes before police responded to a 911 call about her car accident. Authorities have found no evidence of foul play and say they have been unable to determine where she was headed at the time of the accident. Investigators plan to conduct further aerial searches of the wooded area in Woodsville, N.H., where Murray crashed into a snowbank on Feb. 9, Scarinza said.

State Police and New Hampshire Fish and Game officials, along with a team of dogs, are preparing for another "line search" of the area in hopes of finding any of Murray's belongings, such as a backpack, that were apparently missing from her car, he said.

While similar searches have already been made, Scarinza said, "We don't want to leave anything to chance."

**The New Hampshire Union Leader / Nashua Telegraph / Caldeonian Record, April 15, 2004, Residents warn searchers**

The New Hampshire Union Leader / Nashua Telegraph / Caldeonian Record  
April 15, 2004

Residents warn searchers

HAVERHILL (AP) - Family members of Maura Murray, a Massachusetts student who disappeared following a minor car accident in New Hampshire, have been warned by police that they could be arrested if they trespass on property surrounding the accident site.

Haverhill Police Chief Jeff Williams said in an April 2 letter to Murray's father that his department has received a written request from area residents complaining about repeated trespassing and parking problems.

Williams said the property owners also are excluding friends and relatives of Maura Murray; volunteer searchers, canine handlers, private investigators, media, and others seeking clues or searching for her.

Murray, a 21-yearold Hanson, Mass., resident and junior at the University of Massachusetts, disappeared after she was involved in a one-car accident the night of Feb. 9 on Route 112 in Haverhill.

## **The Caledonian-Record, April 20, 2004, Residents Dispute Claims They Want Trespassers Arrested, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 20, 2004

Residents Dispute Claims They Want Trespassers Arrested  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Haverhill, NH -- People living in the area near where a 21-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst student went missing dispute police claims they filed complaints regarding the woman's father, relatives and searchers.

Haverhill Police Chief Jeff Williams sent a letter recently to Maura Murray's father, Fred, notifying him that anyone, including Fred, his family, friends, searchers and reporters, would face arrest if they continued trespassing on Haverhill residents' properties.

Maura was traveling east along Route 112 when her black 1996 Saturn failed to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve near The Weathered Barn the night of Feb. 9. She disappeared before police arrived and hasn't been seen since.

Steve Loud lives on Maguire Road, just west of The Weathered Barn. Claims the neighbors living near the accident site had gathered together to file complaints with Haverhill Police were not true, he said.

Chief Williams has refused to say when the complaints were filed as well as how many have been filed.

"The one neighbor wrote the letter saying it was all the neighbors," Loud said Monday. "It's just the people down by the barn."

He said he has told people at the Stage Coach Stop, a convenience store about a mile west of the accident site, to tell anyone wanting to look for Maura they could search his property.

"I said they can park on my land," Loud said. "I will do anything I can to help. We have been all around this hill. We didn't see any tracks."

Another neighbor, John Boutilier, also said he will do anything he can to help find Maura.

"I don't care if they come on our land," Boutilier said. "I don't have any problem with that. I think it's a most stressful situation for (Fred Murray)."

Searching people's properties, he said, certainly isn't going to hurt anyone. "It makes you wonder if someone has something to hide."

Ann Loud of Woodsville, who was visiting Steve Loud on Monday, said if she lived in the area, she would not complain about people searching for Maura.

"That's not how our community is," she said.

Faith Westman, who owns The Weathered Barn and lives across the road from it in a white house, did file a complaint with Haverhill Police about people parking their cars in the parking lot next to The Weathered Barn.

Westman said she also complained about people traipsing on her property.

"After two months, what are they looking for?" she asked. "Have we not covered enough? We really debated about saying something. We really can sympathize with the family."

Every time the police have parked near her barn or searched her property, she said, they have asked permission first to do so.

"The family has never consulted us," Westman said.

In talking about the night of the accident, she said she called it in to police.

Westman said she saw Butch Atwood, a school bus driver who lives about 100 yards east of the accident scene, stop and check on Maura.

She said she saw Maura get out of her vehicle and talk to Atwood. However, once she saw Atwood talking to Maura, she did not continue watching what was going on.

"We never suspected she would disappear," Westman said. "When the police came to our door and asked if she had come in, we were dumbfounded. I can't even imagine losing someone like that. There isn't any closure."

**The Caledonian-Record, April 20, 2004, State Police Conduct Second Air Search, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 20, 2004

State Police Conduct Second Air Search  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Members of New Hampshire State Police Troop F were back in the air on Monday searching for Maura Murray.

Murray disappeared the night of Feb. 9 after being involved in a one-car crash on Route 112 in Haverhill, about one mile east of Swiftwater.

A state police helicopter, hovering at treetop level, battled stiff winds Monday as passengers Detective Todd Landry and Lt. Wayne Fortier searched the ground below them.

They slowly searched areas on both sides of Route 112. At times, it appeared the helicopter wasn't even moving as it hovered over a hilly area south of Murray's accident site.

School bus driver and nearby resident Butch Atwood was the last known person to see her alive. After the crash, he offered to call police and EMS for her, but he said she asked him not to.

He went to his house anyway to call for help. Between the time he went the 100 yards to his house and the time Haverill Police Department Sgt. Cecil Smith arrived, Murray had disappeared. She hasn't been seen since.

Her cell phone, bank account and credit cards have not been used since the accident.

Troop F Lt. John Scarinza said Monday the helicopter team was searching an area that has been searched previously, but which until now had been covered by snow. The team searched the river area and Bradley Hill Road areas as well as other side roads.

"We certainly wanted to take this opportunity since the snow was off the ground," Scarinza said.

He didn't know if the air search would continue today.

"It depends on how much area was covered," Scarinza said.

Flying at treetop level, investigators could see a lot of detail, he said, especially since the helicopter was flying so slow.

"It's time-consuming," Scarinza said, adding that investigators will search additional areas on foot. He didn't know when the ground search would be conducted, but believed it would be soon.

Not only state police, but also members of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department will be taking part in the ground search. Area fire departments may also be called in to help search.

Scarinza said investigators won't be asking for volunteers because the purpose of the search will be to locate any possible evidence.

Regarding psychic profiler Carla Baron, Scarinza said Troop F investigators have spoken to her about the Murray disappearance.

"We spoke with her several days before her TV special," he said, referring to the psychic's appearance on "Primetime" last week. "We in good faith did speak to her."

**The Caledonian-Record, April 21, 2004, Father Of Missing Sheldon Girl Worried About Others' Safety, By Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 21, 2004

Father Of Missing Sheldon Girl Worried About Others' Safety  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Bruce Maitland is worried about the safety of teenage girls and young women in Vermont and New Hampshire - worried they may face the possibility of being kidnapped and transported elsewhere for illicit purposes.

Maitland's daughter, 17-year-old Brianna, disappeared after she left work at the Black Lantern in Montgomery the night of March 19.

"My own theory," Maitland said Tuesday night, "is there may be a market for these girls in the New York City area. I have some inclination of it."

He also believes there may be a connection between the disappearances of his daughter and that of Maura Murray, a 21-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student from Hanson, Mass.

Murray disappeared the night of Feb. 9 after she was involved in a one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H.

Brianna disappeared after she left work as a dishwasher at the Black Lantern. Her car was found during the early morning hours of March 20 with its rear end ensconced in a portion of an abandoned building, about a mile from the Black Lantern.

"I do believe there is some form of link," Maitland said.

He also said Vermont State Police investigators haven't ruled out a connection, although VSP and New Hampshire State Police investigators have officially told the media they don't believe there is any connection.

Maitland said state police are investigating the possibility teenage girls and young women are being taken for illegal purposes, such as prostitution in the New York City area.

He said there was a case of underage girls being used for such purposes recently in the Hampstead area.

"We know these guys are coming up from New York City," Maitland said. "It's very scary! The connection may not be with a random person. They could be part of a cell."

"In that case," he added, referring to both Brianna and Murray being alive, "there could be a glimmer of hope."



Maitland said he has spoken to detectives in the New York City area about his daughter. He also has visited police precincts there, including the Bronx. And pictures of his daughter have been distributed in the New York City area.

"They gave me some great confidence," he said. "They felt very strongly they would be able to find her if she is on the streets."

Maitland said someone in Burlington had been taking girls from the area to New York City for prostitution in the past.

"So, the market does exist," he said. "It certainly is a reason for the entire community to be upset and to be very careful about their daughters."

Maitland also spoke about a letter he and his wife, Kellie, had sent to Gov. Jim Douglas regarding their belief not enough was being done to find Brianna.

He faxed the letter to Douglas' office Friday.

"Yesterday we got a response," he said.

The Maitlands spent about two hours talking with VSP Tuesday.

"We were unhappy because we hadn't seen any results," he said.

The Maitlands also felt like they were being shut out by investigators. They weren't receiving any information about what was being done to find their daughter. Nor were they receiving any information on what had been learned.

After speaking with state police, Maitland said he believes investigators are desperately searching for evidence and clues that will lead them to Brianna.

"We got a real lesson in procedures," he said. "Certain mistakes were made. They wouldn't directly admit that."

However, he said certain other measures were taken to move the investigation forward which he and Kellie did not know about.

Although the Maitlands feel better coming out of Tuesday's meeting, they still aren't happy.

"I am not satisfied with the results," he said. "I want my daughter back."

The Maitlands will meet once a week with VSP to discuss the latest developments in the case.

Jason Gibbs, Douglas' press secretary, said the governor understands the family's concerns.

"He has been assured we are doing everything we can to bring this young woman home safely," Gibbs said. "The family has been briefed on what information can be shared and what can't be."

While wanting to keep the family informed, he said investigators don't want to provide information which will compromise the investigation.

People with information about Maitland should call Vermont State Police at 802-524-5993.

Anyone with information about Murray should contact New Hampshire State Police at 603-271-3636.

## **The Providence Journal, April 22, 2004, State police to resume ground search for missing girl**

The Providence Journal  
April 22, 2004

State police to resume ground search for missing girl

HAVERHILL, N.H. (AP) - Another ground search is planned soon for a Massachusetts college student missing since Feb. 9 after she crashed her car.

State police Lt. John Scarinza said searchers will be out in the accident area in a few weeks before the leaves come out on trees, which makes sightings more difficult.

State police searched the area in a helicopter Monday for any sign of Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass., a University of Massachusetts student, who had packed up all her belongings at school before she disappeared.

Murray, who didn't tell her family or anyone at school where she was going, was driving east along Route 112 when she failed to make a sharp left hand curve. She was unhurt, but disappeared before police arrived and hasn't been seen or heard from since. Scarinza said the area leads into rugged, mountainous terrain that covers many miles.

Scarinza said state police have talked to Vermont State Police about a girl missing in Vermont to see if there might be a connection, but "based on what we know, there does not seem to be any correlation whatever."

Murray's family has spent considerable time searching the area and asking people in New Hampshire and bordering Vermont if they had seen her.

The woman's father, Fred Murray, still searches every weekend. "I'm happy the police are doing what they can," he said. He said the pledged reward money for information leading to her safe return has reached \$40,000. He said he thinks she might have been abducted by someone who lives in the area. Scarinza said it is a possibility.

"Until we know the answer, I would never say that that's not possible, but ... there's no evidence to suggest that," he said.

**The Caledonian-Record, April 22, 2004, Letters To Editor - Something to hide?**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 22, 2004  
Letters To Editor

Something to hide?  
To the Editor:

Just read the article regarding the Maura Murray family being warned about trespassing and being threatened with arrest.

Sounds to me like someone has something to hide and I am appalled that the police would buy into it. Especially as far as not letting the family know what property owners are going to charge them with trespassing, so they know where not to go.

That letter pretty much ends any type of investigation that might be done the way that it is worded. I have not been impressed with the overall response of the police and this just adds to it.

Robert S. Farnham  
Alton Bay, N.H.

**Boston Herald / The New Hampshire Union Leader / Unidentified / Nashua  
Telegraph, April 21/22, 2004, New search for student finds nothing**

The Associated Press

HAVERHILL (AP) - Another search for a missing University of Massachusetts student has failed to turn up any sign of her whereabouts.

State police in a helicopter searched the Haverhill area on Monday. That's where Maura Murray, 21, of Hanson, Mass., was last seen the night of Feb. 9.

Lt. John Scarinza said the area had been searched before, but had been covered with snow. He said he did not know exactly when ground searchers would go back into the woods.

Murray's family has spent considerable time searching the area and asking people in New Hampshire and bordering Vermont if they had seen her.

Murray, who didn't tell her family or anyone at school where she was going, was driving east along Route 112 when she failed to make a sharp left hand curve near The Weathered Barn and crashed. She was unhurt, but disappeared before police arrived and hasn't been seen or heard from since.

Her cell phone, bank account and credit cards have not been used since the accident.

Meanwhile, people living in the area disputed a police report that they had filed complaints about family and friends trespassing on their property while searching.

"The one neighbor wrote the letter saying it was all the neighbors," said Steve Loud, who lives near The Weathered Barn. "I said they can park on my land," Loud said. "I will do anything I can to help." Another neighbor, John Boutilier, also said he will do anything he can to help find the woman. "I don't care if they come on our land," Boutilier said. "I don't have any problem with that. I think it's a most stressful situation for (Fred Murray)."

Faith Westman, who owns The Weathered Barn and lives across the road from it, filed a complaint with Haverhill police about people parking their cars in the parking lot next to the barn. She said she also complained about people walking on her property. "After two months, what are they looking for?" she said. "Have we not covered enough? We really debated about saying something. We really can sympathize with the family."

Every time the police have parked near her barn or searched her property, they asked permission first, she said.

"The family has never consulted us," Westman said.

## **The Caldedonian-Record, April 27, 2004, Missing Woman's Dad Urges Public's Help - Wants Aid Getting FBI Involved, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caldedonian-Record  
Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Missing Woman's Dad Urges Public's Help - Wants Aid Getting FBI Involved  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Maura Murray's father wants people to become involved in his quest to have the FBI join the investigation into his daughter's disappearance.

Murray's father, Fred, and other relatives have long clamored for the FBI to play an expansive role in the search for Maura.

Maura disappeared after she was involved in a one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill, about a mile east of Swiftwater, the night of Feb. 9.

She hasn't been seen since. And her ATM card, credit card, bank account and cell phone have not been used since her disappearance.

"I am asking for (people living in Vermont and New Hampshire) to contact the FBI and ask them to become involved," Murray said. "None of the young women in Vermont and New Hampshire are safe. This could happen again."

The discovery of a woman's body in a swampy area of Manchester, N.H., Saturday, Murray said, is even more reason to have the FBI involved.

Sgt. Nick Willard of the Manchester Police Department would not say Monday whether the woman has been identified.

Willard said the woman's identity will be released once the next of kin have been identified.

He said the New Hampshire State Attorney General's Office will be having a press conference today regarding the discovery of the woman. Members of the Attorney General's Office could not be reached for comment Monday afternoon. Murray is concerned about a Vermont woman's disappearance as well.

Brianna Maitland is a 17-year-old who disappeared the night of March 19 after leaving her job at the Black Lantern in Montgomery.

Murray, like Brianna's father, Bruce, does not understand how state police in both states have ruled out any connection between the disappearance of their daughters.

"They said the victims did not know one another," Murray said. "I told them the connection isn't between the victims, but the perpetrator. I asked (New Hampshire State Police) why not let the FBI

decide whether there is a connection. Also, there may be an Upper Valley murders connection." He was referring to a series of murders which occurred in the late 1980s.

"They said they have all the resources they need," Murray said, referring to state police. "I told them they are not getting the job done. They said they are. And I said they weren't because they have not found Maura." Murray has suggested the state police conduct a search of areas off of Route 112 on Route 116.

"I asked them to do a direct appeal to the public," he said. "They said they will wait until May." Murray told them that wasn't acceptable. Waiting another month will make it more than three months since Maura disappeared.

"I would think people other than the Maitlands and us would be screaming for the FBI," he said. "We don't want to wait for another body to disappear. There's an unidentified guy still out there. You have another potential horrendous situation."

Murray also is asking for help from residents living in the area where his daughter's accident happened to become involved because he believes a local person may have been involved in Maura's disappearance. "Like it takes a thief to catch a thief, it takes a local to catch a local," he said.

A \$40,000 reward is being offered for any information leading to finding Maura. Maura's Web site is <http://www.spbowers.com/mauramissing>.

The Maitlands have announced they are offering a \$10,000 reward for finding their daughter.

The Maitlands have created the Web site <http://www.bringbrihome.org> as a way to help find their daughter.

## **The Caledonian-Record, April 30, 2004, Ceremony Planned For Murray Accident Site Public Urged To Attend, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
April 30, 2004

Ceremony Planned For Murray Accident Site Public Urged To Attend  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Family and friends of missing University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student Maura Murray will hold a special Circle of Hope ceremony simultaneously throughout parts of the country at 1 p.m., Sunday.

Murray, who is from Hanson, Mass., has been missing since she was involved in a one-car accident on Route 112 in the town of Haverhill, N.H., the night of Feb. 9.

Her father, Fred, will be joined by Jennifer Henry of Essex, Vt., and Leslie Grima of Franconia, N.H., for a ceremony at the accident site Sunday.

Simultaneous ceremonies will be held by Maura's boyfriend, Billy Rausch, in Lawton, Okla.; Rausch's parents, Bill and Sharon, in Marengo, Ohio; friends and family in Hanson; friends at UMass at Amherst; and by her sister, Julie, in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Twenty-two blue balloons, signifying Maura's 22nd birthday Tuesday, will be released at each site.

There also will be blue ribbons, buttons and a large laminated photograph of Maura.

Sharon Rausch said blue ribbons and balloons are being used because blue is Maura's favorite color.

At the accident site, there will be a large laminated photo of Maura. And Henry hopes to tie a blue ribbon around the tree where Maura had her accident.

Maura left her Amherst dorm the afternoon of Feb. 9, driving a black 1996 Saturn, which Rausch said was not operating on all of its cylinders.

As Maura rounded a sharp left-hand curve past The Weathered Barn in the town of Haverhill, she lost control of her car and went off the right side of the highway into some trees, causing minor damage.

Butch Atwood, a school bus driver, was returning home from taking students on a skiing trip when he spotted Murray's car.

He offered her assistance and said he would call police and emergency medical services for her, but she asked him not to.

Atwood, who lived about 100 yards east of the accident site, said Maura did not appear intoxicated.



He drove up to his house to call police and EMS. Between the seven to nine minutes he left Maura and Haverhill Police Sgt. Cecil Smith arrived, Maura disappeared. She has not been seen nor heard from since.

May 9 will mark three months since Maura disappeared.

Her father said he will be releasing the blue balloons and "hope for the best."

He said the balloon casting and Circle of Hope ceremony is going to be symbolic. He is hoping others, including area residents, join him for the ceremony.

However, he also is asking people not to park in the driveway of The Weathered Barn nor people's driveways.

The Rev. Lyn McIntosh will be leading the Circle of Hope ceremony at the accident site.

Grima said she has become involved in the ceremony and search because she is a nurse.

"It's just something I believe in," she said, referring to the search for Maura. "I think it's awful things aren't happening quicker."

Her sister, Jennifer Henry, also is a nurse.

Henry will be bringing ribbons not only symbolic of Maura, but also of Brianna Maitland, 17, Sheldon, Vt., who disappeared after her own car accident in Montgomery, Vt., the night of March 19.

Henry also has been involved in trying to help find Maura. She laments the fact she disappeared so far from home.

"If one of my children went missing in another town, I wouldn't have the hometown advantage ... support," she said.

She noted how hundreds of people have come out to help search for Brianna, which has not been the case for Maura.

"We want to get the local people involved," Henry said.

**Seventeen Magazine, About May 2004, Girl Still Missing One cold winter night, Maura, 21, just picked up and left her college campus-and vanished without a trace**

Seventeen Magazine  
About May 2004

Girl Still Missing One cold winter night, Maura, 21, just picked up and left her college campus-and vanished without a trace.

Route 112 near Haverhill, New Hampshire, has lots of twists and turns, but none are quite as wicked as the 90-degree swerve across from the Weathered Barn, a dilapidated former antiques store.

And at 7:30 P.M. on February 9, 2004, Maura Murray, 21, found out just how difficult it can be to navigate that turn when she completely missed it.

Maura's '96 Saturn careened off the road into the woods, barely missing a tree. She was fine. The car wasn't. The radiator was damaged, and the wheels sank into a few feet of packed snow. About five minutes later, a school bus drove by. Butch Atwood, the driver, was off-duty and headed to his cabin just up the road. "Are you okay?" he shouted to Maura in her car. "Should I call AAA?" Maura rolled down her window and shivered from the 12-degree chill. She mumbled that she'd already called AAA for a tow. Atwood thought she seemed like she'd been drinking. "Okay," he said, "I'll call the police and fire department. Why don't you come to my house? You can get warm and wait there."

"No," Maura replied firmly, "I'll wait here."

Atwood thought it was possible that Maura might have been scared of him-he weighs 350 pounds and has a grizzled beard -so he didn't press the point.

Instead, he drove the 100 yards to his cabin and called the police himself. About 15 minutes later, Atwood saw the police pull up to Maura's car.

When they looked inside, they found an open can of Skyy Blue malt liquor in the front seat. In the back was a suitcase filled with clothes; a stuffed monkey and a diamond necklace that her boyfriend, Bill Rausch, had given to her; two textbooks; and another book-Not Without Peril, an account of people who died climbing New Hampshire's Mount Washington, bookmarked at a chapter titled "A Question of Life or Death."

But Maura was nowhere in sight.

## **TAKING OFF**

No one knows where Maura was going three hours earlier when she got into her car at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she was a junior studying nursing. She didn't tell her friends, her family, or her boyfriend that she was leaving campus at all.

The only thing she said to Bill, in an e-mail she'd sent at 1 P.M. that day (after she'd failed to return his two phone calls and an e-mail he sent the previous day) was, "i love you more stud. i got your messages, but honestly, i didn't feel like talking to much of anyone, i promise to call today though. Love you." Four hours after she e-mailed Bill, Maura did write a note to her boss at the campus art gallery before she took off.

In it, she said that she had a family emergency and had to go out of town for a week. According to the police report, she had also checked out information about Stowe Mountain and printed out directions to Burlington, Vermont (which is in the opposite direction from where she'd crashed). Then she packed her stuff, left her dorm, took \$280 out of an ATM, bought a can of Skyy Blue and a bottle of red wine at a liquor store, got in her car-and started driving.

## EARLY WARNING

Maura had always seemed like she had it all together. She was ranked fourth in her high school class (she scored a 1420 on her SAT), and enrolled at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Then, in fall 2003, Maura transferred to UMass Amherst because she decided she'd rather heal people than kill them, says her father, Fred Murray.

Maura had always shown athletic prowess too, and in high school her reputation as a star runner (she ran a five-minute mile) was known throughout Massachusetts.

But when Maura didn't win a race, which was rare, she'd get really quiet. Even though you could tell she was beating herself up inside for not winning, if you asked her whether she was upset, she'd shake her head no. Maura was like that: She kept things to herself and few people ever saw her cry.

That is, until a few days before she disappeared. Four days earlier, on Thursday, February 5, Maura had called her older sister Kathleen, 26, at around 10:20 P.M., during a quiet patch at Maura's second job manning a dorm security desk. "I was telling her all about this fight I'd had with my fiance'," says Kathleen. "Maura kept saying, 'Don't worry, he's a good guy. It'll work out.'" After they got off the phone, Maura was sitting at her desk doing her job. Then, according to police reports, she inexplicably burst into tears in front of a coworker-and wouldn't say why.

## ANOTHER OUTBURST

Two days later, on Saturday, February 7, Maura's dad drove up to Amherst to help Maura buy a new car.

Maura and her father spent the day at car dealerships and then hit the Amherst Brewing Company for grilled chicken salads. At 10 P.M. her dad wanted to call it a night, so he had Maura drop him off at his motel, then drive herself to the dorm in his car.

About an hour later, Maura arrived at her friend Sara Alfieri's dorm room to hang out. For the next three hours, Maura, Sara, and a couple of friends sat around talking and listening to music while drinking Skyy Blue malt mixed with a little bit of wine. A couple of times, when there were pauses in the conversation, Maura mentioned that she wanted to return the car to her dad that night. "It didn't make any sense," says Kate Markopolous, who was there. Why would Maura, who'd had a few

drinks and seemed tired, go to the trouble of driving all the way to her dad's motel in the middle of the night, when she didn't need to?

At 2:30 A.M., Maura left Sara's room, telling everyone she was going to go upstairs to her room. But instead, she got in her dad's car and started driving back to his motel. On the highway, the car jumped a sandy embankment and hit a guardrail. The front of the car's radiator crumpled, so Maura called AAA to tow the car. The police arrived and wrote up a report-but didn't give Maura a ticket.

When Maura told her father about the accident the next morning, he was upset. "The first thing I asked was, 'Are you all right?'" he says. As Fred Murray called garages, Maura sat there crying. "She kept repeating 'I'm sorry' over and over," he says. "I think she felt like she had really let me down." At 2 P.M., Murray dropped a still-teary Maura off at her dorm in a rental car. "I said, 'Maura, it will get fixed. Don't worry,'" he says. Then Maura got out, and her dad drove away.

## DESPERATE SEARCH

The next day, on February 9, the New Hampshire police arrived at the scene of Maura's second accident-the one on Route 112. The police, fire department, and local residents searched area roads for her. They also left a message for the Murray family to let them know that there had been an accident. When Maura didn't turn up the next day, the police called again and told them she was missing.

Fred Murray drove up to New Hampshire and got a room at the Wells River Motel, near the accident site. As the police continued their search, Murray, along with the rest of his family and Maura's boyfriend, combed the area too. "I can't explain how it feels to be walking up an embankment, thigh-deep in snow, and then there's a big hill in front of you, and you have to walk up it because you see footprints in the snow and you might find your sister's body at the end," says Kathleen.

Two days after Maura's disappearance, dogs had tracked her scent to the road, about 100 yards away from the site. Her family thought that maybe someone had picked Maura up, so they printed up 15,000 flyers with her picture, and a crew of volunteers began tacking them to every signpost and gas station within 50 miles. But weeks went by, and no one came forward. So the Murrays are still searching for Maura.

## QUESTIONS REMAIN

There is still no sign of Maura. "The only thing that makes sense is that a bad guy got her," says her dad.

But police disagree. "There is no evidence that she was abducted," says New Hampshire State Police Sergeant Thomas Yorke. Police have told newspapers that they suspect Maura intended to kill herself, but they've reached no conclusions. "As far as we're concerned, she's a missing person," says Yorke.

Maura's crying, along with her atypical drinking (her family and friends say she wasn't a drinker) and the two car accidents just before she disappeared, raises the question of whether she was buckling

under some emotional pain. "I don't know what could have been going on that she didn't tell me about," says Bill. "As far as I knew, everything was fine."

"I may go to my grave never knowing where she's gone or even why she left school," says her father. "And as far as I can tell, no one else knows either."

Caption: Fred Murray printed "missing" flyers. They were posted as far away as Florida.

Caption: On February 9, 2004 year Maura crashed her car while driving along route 112.

Caption: Maura with her boyfriend Bill, in 2003.

## **The New Hampshire Union Leader, May 2, 2004, Missing: the story in NH, Pat Hammond**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
May 2, 2004

Missing: the story in NH  
By Pat Hammond

There are scores of New Hampshire folks reported as missing right now. The ages and the reasons will vary, of course. And so will the outcomes.

The missing have received considerable attention in the wake of the disappearance -- and grim discovery -- of Amie Lynn Riley. The 20-year-old Manchester woman was found dead last week and her mother is trying to bring about changes when it comes to missing adults.

John Healy knows something about missing people. He owns and operates Litigation Intelligence Services, LLC, in Warner. A Certified Master Investigator, Healy retired from the New Hampshire state police at the rank of lieutenant.

"People go missing for a variety of reasons," Healy said. "Police involvement in these things is limited only due to the fact of the sheer volume of missing persons reported regularly. They just do not have the resources to fully investigate each case.

"Missing could mean a runaway teen, an adult who has disappeared, a kidnap victim, etc. There are lots of definitions and reasons. I think this is an area that is covered by a generic term and that is the problem," Healy said. "It is not a generic happening.

"People may be missing against their will, they may be lying low on purpose (such as deadbeat dads), or they may have just lost contact due to the passage of time," Healy said.

But sometimes the case is solved with the discovery of a corpse.

"I was recently asked to work on a missing person case on the Seacoast," Healy said. "I was going to peruse the bills and data left behind as well as the computer hard drive.

"The day I was headed over there," Healy said, "his body was found, close to his home, an accidental death."

The NCIC protocol

If Amie Lynn Riley's name had been entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database immediately after her mother reported her missing last August, that would not have altered the tragic ending of her short life, but her name would have been in a national database in the event that her body had been found in a place far away from New Hampshire.

Charlotte Riley of Chester is channeling her grief over her daughter's death into a mission to require police who process missing persons cases to enter the names into the nationwide database within a "reasonable period of time."

"I want a mandatory timeframe for entry of the names into the NCIC file," Mrs. Riley said yesterday. "It must be within a reasonable amount of time and, for me, that would be one week, not three months."

It was three months before the Manchester Police Department entered Amie's name into the NCIC. Amie's body was found a week ago -- eight months after her disappearance -- and her death has been pronounced a homicide.

Different for adults

"The general public feels that when someone goes missing you go to the police and report the person missing and can use NCIC, but that is only true if the person is a juvenile.

"If the missing person is an adult," Mrs. Riley said, "it is up to the person at the police department in coordination with the state police to decide if the person is really missing."

Federal law requires that missing persons meeting any of the following criteria must be entered into the NCIC system. The criteria cover any person of any age who is missing and:

has a physical or mental disability or is senile, subjecting himself or others to immediate danger

the disappearance was not voluntary

the person's physical safety may be in danger

the disappearance came after a catastrophe.

Erin Bruno is the case manager for the Nation's Missing Children Organization & Center for Missing Adults (NMCO), based in Phoenix. She has provided support to Charlotte Riley during the family's months-long ordeal.

99 in New Hampshire

"The most current statistics that we have are from 3/07/04 from the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database," Bruno told the Sunday News in an e-mail last week. "There were 46,315 active cases of missing persons over the age of 18 nationally and 99 active missing person cases of all ages in New Hampshire.

"The national number has been pretty stable over the past three months with a fluctuation of less than 300 people," Bruno said. "In February 2004 there were 12,510 cases of missing adults that were entered into the system and 13,827 cases that were canceled. The total canceled reflects newly entered cases and previously entered cases."

An FBI-NCIC source said that as of April 1 there were 45,980 active adult files. Of that, 24,443 are male, 21,534 female and there are three cases in which the gender is unknown.

#### Federal funding

A non-profit agency providing nationwide assistance to law enforcement and families of missing persons, NMCO was formed in 1994 to provide search and advocacy services to children. In 1995 it expanded its charter to include services to missing persons over the age of 18.

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance granted the agency \$1.57 million in 2002 to establish the first national clearinghouse for missing adults, providing services and advocacy to families of missing persons.

"Currently there is not a law that requires law enforcement to take a report on a missing adult, so there is no guarantee the (local) police department would be able to open a missing person investigation," Bruno said.

Two missing-person cases have stumped New Hampshire authorities in recent years: Tina and Bethany Sinclair of Chesterfield and Maura Murray of Hanson, Mass.

Tina Sinclair, then 34, and her daughter Bethany, 15, were last seen in February 2001 in the Chesterfield home of convicted sex offender Eugene Van Bowman, where they had been living.

Murray, a University of Massachusetts student, withdrew money from an ATM on Feb. 9, 2004, and e-mailed a professor that she wouldn't be in class all week because of a family problem. Around 7 p.m. she crashed her car into a snowbank on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., several miles from the Vermont border.

Police said a witness offered help but she refused and told the witness not to call police. Searches have proved unsuccessful.

#### It's not illegal

State police Sgt. Robert Estabrook is with the Major Crime Unit. "I get a list of missing persons periodically from NCIC," he said on Friday. "As of today, there are 56 missing (New Hampshire) people of all ages in our file. Our stats are probably more up-to-date than what NCIC has.

"It's not illegal for an adult to be missing," Estabrook said, "if they want to be. We are a clearinghouse for that. We send out a letter and a form after 30 days to the local police department to ask if the person is still missing. The police department checks off choices, such as 'the person has returned,' on a form and returns it to us."

"If the case is still active after 30 days," Estabrook said, "we would request dental records." Estabrook's office continues to communicate with the police department from time to time to make sure files reflect current information.

The 56 file cards include people missing from as long ago as 1978 but most disappeared within the last two years.



## Asking questions

"Police officers are trained to ask specific questions with regard to a disappearance and are searching for indications that there might be foul play," Manchester Police Department spokesman Sgt. Mark Fowke said.

But some people choose to disappear, Fowke said. "As adults, we are free to come and go as we please. In an interview we ask if there is any reason why they should have run off. People do turn up."

Fowke scanned recent missing persons files on Friday and said, "There was one suicide but the majority of the ones I looked at were brought to a conclusion where we located an individual."

## Outcomes unclear

Bruno, of the Nation's Missing Children Organization & Center for Missing Adults, said statistics on the outcomes of missing persons cases are "still a little ways off because we are still very young as the national clearinghouse and the numbers don't actually reflect the total population yet."

Charlotte Riley will be pursuing her crusade to change the NCIC rules on both the state and the national level.

"If it takes the loss of my daughter to do this," Riley said, referring to requiring police to enter the name of a missing person into the NCIC within a reasonable time period, "and me to be an advocate, then this is my mission in life."

"How can we fix it?" Mrs. Riley asks herself. "Is it going to be more work for the police? Yes, it's more paperwork, but we're not talking about pet seals, we are talking about real people."

**Boston Globe, May 3, 2004, Circle of Hope - Story in Caption, Justine Hunt**

Boston Globe

May 3, 2004

Circle of Hope - Story in Caption

By Justine Hunt

Friends and family of Maura Murray gathered at the track at Whitman-Hanson High School yesterday to release balloons for Murray, who has been missing since Feb. 9 after a car accident.  
Globe Staff Photo / Justine Hunt

**The Patriot Ledger, May 3, 2004, Missing 3 months and still no clues: Hanson woman's kin, friends gather, Chris Nelson**

The Patriot Ledger  
May 3, 2004

Missing 3 months and still no clues: Hanson woman's kin, friends gather  
By Chris Nelson

HANSON - Three months after Hanson native Maura Murray vanished in northern New Hampshire, friends and family say they are upset by lack of progress in the case.

The University of Massachusetts-Amherst student vanished after crashing her car on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H.

Yesterday, friends and family gathered at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School for what they termed a "circle of hope" ceremony to rekindle interest in the case.

Other ceremonies were held yesterday at the spot in New Hampshire where Murray vanished after crashing her car, at UMass-Amherst and at military bases in Oklahoma and North Carolina, where her boyfriend and sister are stationed.

At the high school from which Murray graduated in 2000, 75 people crowded into a semicircle around a large, framed portrait of her. Seated to the right of the picture was her grandmother, Ruth Mehrman.

The ceremony was held at the school's track, because Murray was a star athlete.

"It's only fitting to gather on the same track where Maura and her friends spent hours training and running," said event organizer Beth Drewniak, mother of Liz Drewniak, 22, a close friend of the missing student.

"I think those of you who know Maura know her giggle, her beautiful smile and, oh, those dimples to die for," she said.

Murray's 22nd birthday was Tuesday.

Friends and family said yesterday they are disturbed that there has been no progress on the New Hampshire State Police investigation.

"It seems like the New Hampshire police don't do a ... lot of anything about the investigation," said family friend Beverly Kelley.

Kelley, 59, works with Murray's mother, Laurie Murray, at the Samuel Marcus Nursing and Retirement Home in Weymouth.

Maura Murray packed up her belongings in her dorm room on Feb. 9, loaded up her car and abruptly left UMass. She wrecked her car later that night but refused help from a passing motorist. Ten minutes later, police arrived, but Murray was gone.

Blue and pink balloons that were passed out to everyone at yesterday's event were released into the wind at the ceremony's conclusion. They headed north, in the direction of New Hampshire.

Speakers included Tom Zamagni, Murray's seventh- and eight-grade basketball coach, and the Rev. Mark Hannon, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, where Murray was involved in church activities.

After the service, Laurie Murray reflected on her daughter's disappearance. "It makes no sense. It's like she just, poof, - vanished," she said. "How is that possible? There's not a trace of her."

She said New Hampshire State Police periodically follow new leads, but there has been no good news to report. "When I talk to the investigators, they always have leads and follow them, but they always end in a dead-end. It's been almost three months, and I just want my daughter to come home."

**The Caledonian-Record, May 4, 2004, Circle Of Hope Ceremony For Murray Draws People,  
Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
May 4, 2004

Circle Of Hope Ceremony For Murray Draws People  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Fred Murray couldn't help but dab at his eyes as Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's version of "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" enveloped the 20 people gathered for his daughter's Circle of Hope ceremony, Sunday afternoon.

With strong winds and sometimes stormy-looking skies portending rain, people from New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts gathered at the site on Route 112 where Maura lost control of her black 1996 Saturn the night of Feb. 9 and then disappeared.

"I was overwhelmed," Murray said, clearing his voice. "That song ... I have never heard it before ... it was Maura. That song ... it tore me up."

Maura's friends from her high school days at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School -- they and Maura were referred to as the "gang of seven" -- wanted the song to be played at the Circle of Hope Ceremony.

Not only was the song played in Haverhill Sunday, it also was played during Circles of Hope ceremonies for Maura in Oklahoma, South Dakota, Ohio, North Carolina and Massachusetts.

The ceremonies were held so that people could gather together to not only let Maura know they are still hoping for her safe return, but also to wish her a happy 22nd birthday.

Each person at the Haverhill site was given one of 22 blue balloons before letting go with a birthday wish for Maura. Blue is Maura's favorite color. She turns 22 today.

As the strong winds scattered the balloons, Murray said they were like the people who care about his daughter. The balloons represent all those people searching for her.

He said no matter what has happened he wants Maura to come home so he can help her work things out.

"Happy birthday and we will see you soon," Murray said, letting go of a blue balloon.

He also thanked the 20 people who attended the Haverhill ceremony.

Not only was Murray overwhelmed by the song, he also was overwhelmed by the number of people who attended the Circle of Hope.

"I thought maybe I would be out here by myself," he said. "To get a nice turnout like this made me feel very grateful. It shows the inherent good in people.

"It shows everyone is concerned and wants to help, but they are frustrated."

Diane Brock, who owns the Wells River Motel in Vermont where Murray and other relatives have been staying, said she wanted to show her support for the family.

"I feel like I have become a part of their family," Brock said. "I feel their pain. I have three children Maura's age. I would be doing the same thing he has ... night and day."

Murray has been spending every weekend searching for Maura.

Barbara McDougall from Weymouth, Mass., said she also wanted to support Murray. "I also wanted to wish Maura a happy birthday." She also has been searching for Maura.

This weekend was the first chance for McDougall's husband, David, to help join in the search. He has a very personal reason why he wants to help Murray bring his daughter home. "My brother went missing in 1998," David McDougall said. "He was missing 17 days." Family members found him.

"So, I know how they feel," he said. "So, we will keep coming back until something changes."

The Rev. Lyn McIntosh led the Circle of Hope ceremony. McIntosh said it is hard to have a Circle of Hope when someone is missing.

However, she added, while everyone joined hands in a circle, "She is here in our hearts, our minds and our imaginations. "I pray you never give up," McIntosh said, turning to Murray. "Not a chance," he said.

Jennifer Henry, who is from Essex, Vt., made the trip to Haverhill with her children. She helped attach a laminated photo of Maura to the tree and also tied a blue ribbon and bow around it.

Her daughter, Angela, said she felt great seeing how many people turned out for the Circle of Hope. She was pleased with the show of support for Murray and his family.

Everyone attending the ceremony was especially touched when Patti Davidson from Weymouth, Mass., read a poem she had written for Maura, who is a distant relative.

Davidson urged God to keep Maura close in his arms and to bring her home so she is no longer alone. "I kept thinking about her," she said. "This came from my heart. I hope she hears it and I hope she comes home."

At the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School track in Hanson, Mass., about 100 people turned out in support of Maura and her family.

Beth Drewniak, who knows Maura very well, said it was a great turnout. Drewniak used to celebrate her daughter Liz's and Maura's birthdays together because they were within days of one another.

Of the "gang of seven," she said three were at the event.

"When I was growing up, if I had had a group of friends like this, I would have been thankful," Drewniak said. "They are so respectful of one another. They are absolutely heartbroken,"

The Circle of Hope was held at the high school's track, according to Drewniak, because Maura used to spend "weeks and weeks and months and months there."

Regarding the song, she said her daughter and Maura's other friends were adamant it was played during the ceremonies throughout the country.

Drewniak said the song reminded the friends of Maura. "It was just a reminder Maura is still out there and people love her and we will keep trying to bring her home," Liz Drewniak said, referring to the Circle of Hope gatherings. "All of us ... we have good days and we have bad days. We can sense when we need an extra phone call."

"It's been a bad semester," said Liz Drewniak, who is Maura's best friend. "It was emotional. We were in tears most of the time."

When asked what message she would like to send Maura, Drewniak said, "Maura, we want you home."

Sharon Rausch, who is the mother of Maura's boyfriend, said the ceremony in Marengo, Ohio, also was very emotional and was attended by about 20 people. "We joined hands and every person said something," Rausch said. "By the time everyone finished, tears were streaming down our faces."

Anyone with information about Murray should contact New Hampshire State Police at 603-271-3636.

**The New Hampshire Union Leader / North Adams Transcript / Portsmouth Herald / St. Albans Daily Messenger, May 5/6, 2004, Parents of missing young women will meet - Parents of missing women to meet in N.H.**

Note: The Portsmouth Herald has an alternative headline and additional paragraphs in Italics.

The Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — The parents of a missing Sheldon teen will meet this weekend in New Hampshire with the father of a young Massachusetts woman who recently vanished to discuss whether their daughters' disappearances are related.

"We'd really like it if someone would come in and look at both situations and see if a single suspect might have been involved," said Bruce Maitland of East Franklin, father of 17-year-old Brianna Maitland.

Bruce Maitland, his wife, Kelly, and Fred Murray of Hanson, Mass., will meet in Woodsville a few miles north of where Murray's 21-year-old daughter, Maura, disappeared in early February. Maura Murray, a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts, vanished shortly after her car went off Route 112 in Woodsville the night of Feb. 9. Woodsville is across the Connecticut River from Wells River.

Brianna Maitland disappeared after finishing work at the Black Lantern Inn restaurant in Montgomery the night of March 19. Her car was found a mile west of town the next day, its rear end rammed into the side of an abandoned house on Vermont 118.

*Police in both states have discounted the possibility that the two disappearances are related.*

*"We have looked at that and talked with the New Hampshire State Police about both cases," said Lt. Tom Nelson of the Vermont State Police. "We have not found anything that connects the cases in anyway."*

*Maitland said police should continue to explore possible links, and said Saturday's event will help keep the spotlight on the two cases.*



**The Caldedonian-Record, Thursday, May 6, 2004, Parents Of Missing Women To Meet,  
Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caldedonian-Record  
Thursday, May 6, 2004

Parents Of Missing Women To Meet  
By Gary E. Lindsley

The parents of 17-year-old Brianna Maitland and 21-year-old Maura Murray are joining forces to increase pressure on law enforcement to call in the FBI to join the search for their loved ones.

Bruce and Kellie Maitland and Fred Murray have scheduled a press conference for 9 a.m. Saturday at the American Legion in Woodsville.

The Maitlands and Murray are frustrated with the respective police investigations into their daughters' disappearances.

Brianna has been missing since she clocked out at her job as a dishwasher at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery, Vt., at 11:20 p.m. March 19. She left the inn to return to Sheldon where she was living with a friend.

Her car was discovered partially ensconced in an abandoned building during the early morning hours of March 20 about a mile from the Black Lantern. She hasn't been seen since.

Maura was involved in a one-car accident on Route 112 in the town of Haverhill, N.H., the night of Feb. 9. She hasn't been seen since the night of the accident. Both women disappeared after being involved in accidents on rural roads.

The Maitlands and Murray believe there may be a connection between what has happened to their daughters. And they want that connection explored.

However, state police from Vermont and New Hampshire have discounted any connection between the disappearances of Brianna and Maura.

"We want to meet Fred and talk about what we are going through," Bruce Maitland said. "Also, we want to get out to people we need to have this looked at as a combined effort. There may be a connection."

He believes the FBI, which has more resources than the state police, should become involved in the search for Brianna and Maura.

Murray has been asking New Hampshire State Police right from the beginning to ask the FBI to become active participants in the search for his daughter.

And with Brianna missing, he believes it is imperative any possible connections be explored. "I believe there may be a connection," Murray said. "The people in Vermont and New Hampshire should be screaming to have the FBI become involved."

He said until Brianna and Maura are found, young women in Vermont and New Hampshire are not safe until whomever is involved is found.

**The Caledonian-Record, May 6, 2004, Police Have New Lead In Maura Murray Case, By Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
May 6, 2004

Police Have New Lead In Maura Murray Case  
By Gary E. Lindsley

There may be a break in the case involving 21-year-old nursing student Maura Murray who disappeared the night of Feb. 9 after she was involved in a one-car accident on rural Route 112 in Haverhill.

New Hampshire State Police Troop F Lt. John Scarinza said a witness has come forward with information he may have seen Murray about four to five miles east of the accident scene.

Scarinza said a man, whom he declined to identify, was returning from a construction job in the Franconia area when he spotted a young woman matching Murray's description hurrying east on Route 112, about an hour after her accident.

He not only believes the witness' information is credible, he also believes the man actually saw the Hanson, Mass., resident.

Murray, a student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, left campus the afternoon of Feb. 9 after e-mailing professors and her boss, telling them she was going to take a week off because of a family problem.

Before heading north, she packed her black 1996 Saturn with some clothing, books for her college classes, expensive diamond jewelry from her boyfriend, Billy Rausch of Fort Sill, Okla., and computer-generated directions for locations in Vermont.

Although directions found in her car indicated she may have been headed toward Stowe or Burlington in Vermont, Murray apparently exited Interstate 91 at Exit 17 and headed east on Route 302.

She then turned right onto Route 112 and apparently headed to Lincoln, which she was familiar with because of family excursions to the area.

About a mile east of Swiftwater, around 7 p.m., she lost control of her car while rounding a sharp left-hand curve near The Weathered Barn. Her car went off the right side of the highway and into some trees, causing minor damage.

Butch Atwood, a school bus driver who lives about 100 yards east of the accident site, discovered Murray's disabled car while returning from taking students on a skiing trip.

Atwood spoke with her and offered to help, including calling police and EMS. However, Murray insisted that Atwood not call police and EMS because she had already contacted AAA.

Murray did not appear to be intoxicated, according to Atwood. Police said a container of alcohol was found in the car.

Atwood went to his house to call for help. About seven to nine minutes later, Haverhill Police Sgt. Cecil Smith arrived at the accident scene. Murray was nowhere to be found.

"Based on the description of what he saw, we believe it may have been Maura," Scarinza said, referring to the witness seeing a young woman fitting Maura's description about an hour after the accident. "Based on the place and based on the time, there is a good possibility the person he saw on 112 was Maura."

The witness contacted state police April 29 about possibly seeing Murray the night of the accident.

Scarinza said although the witness thought shortly after her disappearance he may have seen Murray, he discounted that thought after talking with a friend. His friend had said Murray's accident had happened Feb. 11 instead of Feb. 9. And he had seen the young woman the night of Feb. 9.

It was after seeing subsequent news reports, and realizing the accident had occurred Feb. 9, he decided to contact state police.

The man, who Scarinza said is a contractor, checked his work records and verified he was returning home from a job in the Franconia area the night of Feb. 9 when he spotted who he and state police believe was Murray.

Maura's father, Fred Murray, is upset police didn't travel Route 112 toward the Woodstock area, at least calling ahead to the Woodstock police to ask them to look for his daughter.

"This was a young woman involved in an accident," he said. "She had a head injury by the indication of the spider hole in the windshield."

"They know she is somewhere close by and they don't go down the road to bring her to safety?" Murray asked. "If they had searched for my daughter, she would most likely be safely here now."

Sharon Rausch, Billy's mother, said she believes the news of an eyewitness is wonderful.

"It gives me renewed hope she is still alive," Rausch said. "If she sees this in print, we want her to know she's more loved than ever."

Scarinza said because of the new information from the eyewitness, a search will be conducted Saturday in the area of routes 112 and 116 where Maura was last seen by the eyewitness.

## **The Patriot Ledger, May 6, 2004, New tip on missing Hanson woman, Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger  
May 6, 2004

New tip on missing Hanson woman  
By Joe McGee

A new lead in the search for missing Hanson woman Maura Murray has New Hampshire authorities searching woods a few miles from where she disappeared.

New Hampshire State Police Lt. John Scarinza said a motorist may have seen Murray jogging along Route 112 on the night she disappeared. The sighting was only a few miles from where her wrecked car was found.

Police have searched the area by helicopter and are planning more ground searches this weekend.

"We're placing a lot of weight on the fact that he may have seen her," said Scarinza.

The witness had just gotten off work when he saw a person jogging east on Route 112 toward Woodstock. It was shortly after 7 p.m. on Feb. 9, around the time Murray was involved in a single-car accident on the same stretch of road in Haverhill. Murray was gone when police arrived about 10 minutes later and she has not been seen since.

Scarinza said the new tip seems credible. It was only a few miles from Haverhill and someone could easily jog there in a short amount of time. The road is infrequently traveled at night by pedestrians or motorists, police said.

"The times he gave us are consistent and so we think that it could've been Maura that he saw," said Scarinza.

The clue offers at least some hope for Murray's family and friends. What happened after the car accident is only part of the mystery. Questions about why she was in New Hampshire are also unanswered. The last time friends saw her was the afternoon of Feb. 9, when Murray packed her belongings at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and left. She E-mailed professors saying there was a death in the family.

Another woman who disappeared in Montgomery, Vt., shortly after Murray is Brianna Maitland. Her family plans to meet with the Murrays this weekend. So far, police in both states see no connection in the cases.

Murray's father, Fred, recently underwent a lengthy reading with psychic profiler Carla Baron of Los Angeles. Baron believes Murray was the victim of an opportunistic killer. Although clairvoyants are considered a last resort in police work, Scarinza said detectives spoke with Baron at the father's request.

"We took the information she had to offer but at this point I can't say she offered us anything substantial," said Scarinza.

Baron said she has a clear vision of who the killer is and why he did it.

"It isn't the first time they've done this," said Baron. "His job involves traveling around. It's something where he is in different areas for different reasons. I think that's his motive. It's opportunity. He doesn't harvest women like a serial killer. He's a regular-looking guy, trustworthy, looks intelligent and you would never think he'd be capable. That's why Maura trusted him."

Baron said her track record of working alongside detectives is "sterling."

Baron was featured on the Court TV special "Psychic Detectives" and on a recent episode of ABC's "Primetime Live."

Murray's boyfriend, Army Lt. Bill Rausch of Oklahoma, said the family doubts the veracity of Baron's visions, but when a loved one has been missing for as long as Maura, you're willing to try anything.

"It's difficult because it's human nature to want to know what happened," said Rausch.

**Boston Herald, May 6, 2004, Families of missing women want cops to search for link,  
Jessica Heslam**

Boston Herald  
May 6, 2004  
Page 27

Families of missing women want cops to search for link  
By Jessica Heslam

Despite police saying there's nothing to link them, the cases of two women who vanished from two different states are hauntingly similar, say their parents, who plan to meet Saturday to compare notes.

"We think maybe they've come in contact with the same person or groups of people. Maybe there is a real nutcase out there somewhere that committed both these acts," said Bruce Maitland, whose 17-year-old daughter, Brianna, vanished from Vermont March 19.

"We would like someone to look at both these cases," Maitland said yesterday. "It at least ought to be looked at."

Brianna Maitland vanished after her shift at the Black Lantern Inn restaurant in Montgomery, Vt. Her car was found a mile away the next day, its rear end rammed into the side of an abandoned house.

On Feb. 9, University of Massachusetts nursing student Maura Murray vanished after her car hit a snowbank on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H. When police showed up, the car was locked and the 21-year-old Hanson, Mass., native was gone.

Maitland said both are beautiful women who disappeared without a trace after some sort of automobile mishap. They vanished about 60 miles apart.

Vermont State Police Lt. Thomas Nelson said there's no concrete connection.

**The Patriot Ledger, May 7, 2004, Parents of 2 missing want more done; Will meet tomorrow to urge a harder look at possible connection, Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger  
May 7, 2004

Parents of 2 missing want more done; Will meet tomorrow to urge a harder look at possible connection  
By Joe McGee

The parents of two young women, including one from Hanson, who disappeared in locations 100 miles apart this winter will hold a press conference tomorrow morning to request more help from the FBI.

Although police have not found a link between the cases, the families think more should be done to explore what they consider a strong connection.

"Police have done a pretty thorough job, but I think it's time somebody comes in from the FBI to look at both cases, and look at these girls, and see if there is someone similar that came in contact with them," said Bruce Maitland of Vermont.

Maitland's 17-year-old daughter, Brianna, disappeared seven weeks ago after leaving her part-time job in Montgomery, Vt., about six weeks after Maura Murray of Hanson, a 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst student, disappeared in northern New Hampshire.

Murray was last seen Feb. 9 on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., where she was in a car accident. Police showed up within 10 minutes, but Murray was gone. Because there were no footprints in the snow, many think she was picked up.

Maitland disappeared on the night of March 19. Her abandoned car was found the next morning about a mile from where she worked. Ground searches in Vermont have not yielded any evidence.

Police in both states have shared information on the cases.

This week, a local contractor reported that he may have spotted Murray walking east on Route 112 shortly after her accident.

Despite that development, the women's families are growing frustrated. Murray's mother, Laurie, said all avenues must be explored.

"They're two young beautiful girls and both disappeared about the same time," Laurie Murray said. "(The families) are getting together to compare notes to see if there are similarities. Evidently the police department feels there aren't any."

The FBI's Boston field office controls investigations in New Hampshire. The agency's Albany, N.Y., office controls the Northern Kingdom region of Vermont.



Personnel from the Boston office interviewed Murray family members early in the case. Special Agent Gail Marcinkiewicz, spokeswoman for the Boston office, said the office continues to support the New Hampshire state police in their investigation.

Marcinkiewicz said the FBI has resources across the country and can conduct interviews in any jurisdiction.

The more help offered, the better, Laurie Murray said.

"I want as much done as possible. It's awful. She's been missing for three months without a trace."

The parents will meet tomorrow in New Hampshire.

Anyone with information is asked to call the New Hampshire state police at 603-846-3333 or the Vermont state police at 802-524-5993. Two web sites offer information and rewards: [www.bringbrihome.org](http://www.bringbrihome.org) and [www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html](http://www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html).

**Boston Globe, May 7, 2004, New lead is reported in search for student - Woman was seen along N.H. road, David Abel**

Boston Globe  
May 7, 2004

New lead is reported in search for student - Woman was seen along N.H. road  
By David Abel

A new witness recently came forward, providing a lead for investigators in the disappearance of a 22-year-old nursing student from Hanson, police have told the family.

New Hampshire State Police told the parents of Maura Murray, who disappeared in February after abruptly leaving her dorm at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, that a motorist recalled seeing a woman fitting their daughter's description jogging along Route 112 on the night she vanished.

The motorist, apparently a local contractor who commutes along the route every day, told police he saw the woman turn down a dirt road as he approached, said Laurie Murray, the missing student's mother.

"I hope this helps and at least keeps it in the news to help find my daughter," said Murray.

State Police Lieutenant John Scarinza said the man reported seeing someone fitting Maura Murray's description along the road in Haverhill, N.H., the Associated Press reported. The spot was 4 or 5 miles from where Murray had a minor car accident that disabled her vehicle just before her disappearance.

Police said they will search that area this weekend.

The witness said he saw Murray around 7 p.m. on Feb. 9, around the time she disappeared, police told the Murrays.

"I am encouraged by the lead," said Fred Murray, Maura's father, who added that he plans to hold a news conference tomorrow morning in Woodsville, N.H., to release more details. "All I can say now is we've got her alive and moving at a particular place at a particular time. I believe it's my daughter, based on the description."

Police told the family the man did not come forward earlier because he didn't connect reports of Murray's disappearance with the woman he saw.

**Boston Herald, May 7, 2004, New lead gives hope to missing girl's kin, Jennifer Rosinski**

Boston Herald

May 7, 2004

New lead gives hope to missing girl's kin

By Jennifer Rosinski

The family of a missing Massachusetts college student is optimistic about a new witness who claims to have seen the 21-year-old woman after she crashed her car into a New Hampshire snowbank more than three months ago.

"That's very encouraging and hopefully something comes of it," Maura Murray's father, Fred, said last night. "Finally, something to nibble on."

State police Lt. John Scarinza said the witness believes he saw the former West Point cadet the night of her disappearance Feb. 9, when she crashed on Route 112 in Woodsville, N.H.

The man told police he saw someone fitting Murray's description walking along the road four or five miles from the accident scene.

Police will search that area of the White Mountains this weekend.

The man did not come forward earlier because he was not sure about the date of Murray's disappearance.

The University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student from Hanson vanished from the accident scene while a witness left to call for help. She appeared uninjured.

A search for Murray began 36 hours after she vanished and dogs lost her scent 100 yards from her car.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## **New Hampshire Union Leader, May 7, 2004, In Brief - Police get new lead in Murray case**

New Hampshire Union Leader  
May 7, 2004

In Brief - Police get new lead in Murray case  
By Associated Press

Haverhill -- A new lead will prompt a new search for the 21-year-old Massachusetts woman who disappeared in northern New Hampshire three months ago.

State Police Lt. John Scarinza said a witness has come forward saying he believes he saw Maura Murray after her initial disappearance. The Hanson, Mass., woman disappeared the night of Feb. 9 after a minor car accident in Haverhill.

Scarinza said a man has reported he saw someone fitting Murray's description that night, walking along the road four or five miles from the accident scene. Police said they will search that area this weekend.

Scarinza said the man, a contractor who was returning home from a job in the Franconia area, did not come forward earlier because he was not sure about the date of Murray's disappearance.

**The New Hampshire Union Leader, May 9, 2004, Skeletal remains found are too old to be missing Mass. woman, Michael Cousineau**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
May 9, 2004

Skeletal remains found are too old to be missing Mass. woman  
By MICHAEL COUSINEAU  
Union Leader Staff

A hiker out on a scavenger hunt Friday discovered human skeletal remains in a rugged and remote region of Mount Kancamagus east of Lincoln, state police said last night.

Police quickly ruled out that the remains belonged to Maura Murray, the Massachusetts woman who disappeared from Haverhill on Feb. 9. The remains are believed to be at least several years old.

We're looking into any missing persons/hikers reported missing from that area, and I'm aware of one and maybe two from the last decade who were in fact missing and not found," State Police Lt. John Scarinza told the Sunday News last night.

Authorities hadn't determined whether the remains were of a man or woman.

We're going to send the remains to the medical examiner for identification and cause of death," he said.

A jacket and sneaker were found at the site. Scarinza said the items appeared to have been out in the elements for quite a long time." No further details were available.

The hiker reported his discovery to State Police Friday and authorities waited for sufficient light before heading out with the hiker yesterday to find and recover the remains in an area more than 3,000 feet in elevation, he said.

It's certainly safe to say he was bushwacking off the trail, which is probably why he had located the remains and others have not through some pretty rugged terrain up there," Scarinza said.

He said the hiker, whose name wasn't available, was participating in a treasure hunt.

Hikers frequently compete in such games using global position satellite equipment to find items hidden in water-tight containers left in challenging locations.

Members from State Police, the New Hampshire Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service removed the remains from the mountain, which is located south of Route 112 in the town of Livermore, about 8 miles from the center of Lincoln. Authorities took approximately nine hours to reach the site and return with the remains.

The skeletal remains were found about 25 miles east from where Murray was last seen.

The discovery isn't unprecedented.

In my career in the past 25 years, I know of at least several occasions where skeletal remains have been found in northern New Hampshire," Scarinza said.

Meanwhile, the families of two missing women came together in Haverhill yesterday to plead for help from the public and federal authorities.

Fred Murray's daughter, Maura, 21, disappeared on Feb. 9 in Haverhill after a car accident.

The Weymouth, Mass., man was joined by Bruce and Kellie Maitland of East Franklin, Vt., whose daughter, Brianna, 17, was last seen on March 19.

Also lending their support were Charlotte and Michael Riley of Chester, parents of 20-year-old Amie Riley, who was last seen leaving a Manchester bar in August. Her body was found last month in a marsh.

**Boston Globe, May 9, 2004, State Police Find Skeletal Remains - New England in Brief /  
Livermore, N. H.**

Boston Globe  
May 9, 2004

State Police Find Skeletal Remains  
New England in Brief / Livermore, N. H.

The skeletal remains of what could be a hiker were recovered by New Hampshire State Police yesterday about 500 feet from the summit of Mt. Kancamagus in Livermore, N.H., police said. The unidentified remains, which include a skull, were found by a hiker who ventured off a trail on Friday. The remains appear to be at least a year old, and based on their apparent age, police have ruled out the possibility they could belong to missing college student Maura Murray of Hanson, who vanished in February about 25 miles away.

**Nashua Telegraph / Boston Globe, May 8/9, 2004, Families of missing women gather - Parents, siblings seek support, connection between three cases, By Mike Recht**

The Associated Press

HAVERHILL - The families of two missing women came together in Haverhill on Saturday to plead for help from the public and federal authorities.

Fred Murray of Weymouth, Mass., whose daughter, Maura, 21, disappeared on Feb. 9 in Haverhill after a minor car accident, set up the meeting before starting another weekend of searching.

He was joined by Bruce and Kellie Maitland of East Franklin, Vt., whose daughter, Brianna, 17, was last seen on March 19 after she left work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery, Vt.

Also lending their support were the parents of 20-year-old Amie Riley of New Hampshire, who was last seen leaving a bar in August. Her body was found last month in a marsh.

Although they had never met before, the parents hugged tearfully, knowing each other's pain. Murray said the three cases "easily could be" connected, although state police said there is no evidence pointing in that direction.

Murray said the three investigations should be centrally coordinated by an agency such as the FBI, since they cross state lines.

"There is substantial reason for the FBI to be involved," he said. "People should be yelling for the FBI to come in."

"What if the cases are not related and a local person is involved?" he said. "Then people here should be uneasy. It takes a local to catch a local."

Bruce Maitland said any missing person older than 12 is treated as a runaway. Murray and the Maitlands pleaded for anyone to come forward if they think they have any information about the whereabouts of their daughters.

"It can come to you; it can be your family; it can be your daughter," Kellie Maitland said. Asked what message she wanted to send to the public, she shouted tearfully, "not one more girl; not one more beautiful girl."

Charlotte and Michael Riley have been lobbying lawmakers to change the rules for reporting a missing adult. According to Mrs. Riley, it took police three months to enter her daughter's name into the National Crime Information Center system.

About 15 Fish and Game officers, joined by the New England Canine and the Upper Valley Wilderness Response team with six dogs, searched the woods for Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts student, about five miles east of the accident site on Route 112. A limited ground and helicopter search was conducted in March, and another helicopter search was done last week, Fish and Game officer Todd Bogardus said.



The search was prompted by a new witness account of a woman fitting Murray's description walking along the road that night.

Searchers would not be out again unless some evidence is found, he said.

"There is substantial reason for the FBI to be involved. People should be screaming for the FBI to come in." - Fred Murray, Father of missing 21-year-old.

**The Caledonian-Record, Monday May 10, 2004, Families Issue Emotional Plea For FBI Help, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
Monday May 10, 2004

Families Issue Emotional Plea For FBI Help  
By Gary E. Lindsley

WOODSVILLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- When Fred Murray and Kellie Maitland met for the first time Saturday morning, it was a very emotional moment for the parents of two missing young women.

Maitland went up to Murray and they tenderly embraced, both knowing one another's pain of not knowing what has happened to their daughters.

Murray's daughter, Maura, a 21-year-old nursing student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has been missing since she was involved in a minor one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill the night of Feb. 9.

Maitland's daughter, 17-year-old Brianna, has been missing since she clocked out of work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery, Vt., the night of March 19.

Maitland, her husband, Bruce, and Murray were joined by Charlotte and Michael Riley of Chester, N.H., in a press conference at the American Legion, Ross-Wood Post 20, in Woodsville Saturday morning.

The Rileys were told their daughter, Amie, who had been missing since August, was found in April in a swamp in Manchester. She had been brutally murdered.

Murray and the Maitlands clamored for public support in having the FBI brought in to investigate not only the disappearances of Maura and Brianna, but also the murder of Amie.

Murray has been beseeching New Hampshire State Police officials at Troop F to call in the FBI to join the investigation since learning his daughter was missing.

The FBI will not join an investigation until asked by the police agency handling a case.

And after learning about the disappearance of Brianna, Murray and the Maitlands called for state police in both New Hampshire and Vermont to call in the FBI.

State police officials in both New Hampshire and Vermont have said there isn't any connection between Maura and Brianna's disappearances, other than they both were involved in car accidents.

However, they also have not said how they have ruled out any connection.

"Something has to be done," Charlotte Riley said. "It's important. No one knows where to turn. I don't want (the media) to portray my grief. I want them to portray something has to be changed."

She spoke about how the police in Manchester did not place her daughter's information into the National Crime Information Center until three months after she had disappeared.

Riley said until a case gets an NCIC number, parents of missing children do not receive any help with searches or posters or from support groups.

Kellie Maitland said her daughter had been at a party a week before she disappeared. She had been assaulted at that party. "Maybe she knew something," she said. "We are hoping someone out there knows something."

Murray said, "We need help. All three families need help. None of us have our daughters. If these three cases are connected, and they very well could be, it's horrendous. You could have a killer locally in your midst." He said there is ample reason for the FBI to become involved.

"We are asking for your help," Murray said, pleading to the public through the media. "People should be screaming for the FBI. We want this to be brought to a close. You owe it to yourselves, folks."

Bruce Maitland said although he has been told the cases aren't related, he believes no one has really looked into whether they are connected.

"I am going to practically beg the governor (Jim Douglas) to step up to the plate," he said. "Let's give (state police) some help."

Kellie Maitland said she felt as if they are up against the wall.

She spoke about a drug bust at a crack house in Vermont in which those busted were let back out on the street the very next day.

"We can't keep having a revolving door for criminals," Kellie Maitland said. "They are back out there. We don't have our daughter."

"Not one more girl!" she continued, her voice quivering. "Not one more beautiful girl! They are bright. They are talented. Not one more. It's a pretty bad Mother's Day."

With that, she walked away from the microphones and went over to Murray, tears streaming down her face. He hugged her, trying to console her.

Her husband joined her and laid his head on top of hers, encircling his arms around her as they listened to Charlotte Riley speak. Riley said until people are in such a situation, they have no idea what it is like.

She spoke about the lack of media coverage after it was determined her daughter was missing. "She was at a bar," Riley said. "Does that make her less of a person?" The Maitlands and Murray responded with a resounding no.

She also emphasized the importance of pressing police to enter the information into the NCIC system. "The system is not working," Riley said. "Three months! It was three long months before she was considered missing!"

**Journal Opinion, May 12, 2004, Missing woman's parents plead for FBI, local help, Cicely Richardson**

Journal Opinion  
May 12, 2004

Missing woman's parents plead for FBI, local help  
By Cicely Richardson

Woodsville -- On a sunny spring morning with a chill wind the parents of two missing young women held a press conference on May 8 outside American Legion Post #20 in Woodsville. They suggested the two cases may be connected and wanted local police to call in the FBI.

Bruce and Kellie Maitland of East Franklin, VT, and Fred Murray of Hanson, MA, had summoned newspaper and television representatives to keep alive the search for their daughters and raise the awareness of people throughout the area. They were joined by Charlotte and Michael Riley of Chester, NH, whose daughter Amie had disappeared last summer. Her body was found eight months later.

"Why are we here?" said Kelly Maitland. "We're all hoping someone out there knows something."

"We need help. We don't have our daughters," said Murray.

Maura Murray, a 21-year-old nursing student at the University of Massachusetts, had disappeared after running off the road on a sharp curve in Route 112 east of Swiftwater, on Feb. 9. A bus driver who lived near by reportedly came upon the disabled car around 7 p.m. and offered to help, but she declined. He then went home and called the police. The Haverhill police, who responded, did not find Murray.

Brianna Maitland, 17, disappeared on March 19 after leaving work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery, VT. She was heading to Shelton, VT where she was living with a friend. Later that night, her car was found, backed into an abandoned house about a mile away from the inn.

While the Vermont and New Hampshire state police see no connection between the two cases, the parents think a connection is likely. They point out that both involved young women who were driving alone at night on rural roads. Kelly Maitland said that "accident situations" 90 miles apart in this area were "unusual."

If these cases are connected, said Murray, "The people of this area have a horrendous situation -- they could have a killer walking in their midst." Murray and the Maitlands would like to see the FBI brought in, to centrally coordinate and run all three cases -- the search for Maura Murray and Brianna Maitland and for the killer of Annie Riley.

"The State police work hard and they're nice guys. But they are restricted in their resources, and they've hit a stone wall," said Murray. He said the FBI had offered help, but local police refused. He pointed out that his daughter disappeared not far from the Connecticut River, but the New Hampshire State Police investigation cannot cross the river, the border with Vermont.

If the cases are unrelated, he continued, and "if a local bad guy from this area harmed my daughter, people here have to be uneasy."

Since February night, Murray has been searching for his daughter, crawling through every bridge and culvert, pressing the police, checking bus stations and asking bus drivers if they saw his daughter. He has checked topographical maps to identify where a vehicle might have gone, checked with neighbors as to what was accessible, and searched.

Murray expressed particular frustration by the news this week that a second person had seen a young woman walking east on Route 112 about four or five miles east of the accident scene about an hour later. "I'm convinced it was my daughter," said Murray, adding, "so when the police arrived she was right around the corner. They could have taken a ride up the road and grabbed her."

A star in the windshield of the car indicated she may have hit her head, there was an empty beer can on the floor, and the outside temperature was 12 degrees, Murray said. "She was in danger." Why hadn't the police driven further or called the next town for help and why had it taken three months for another witness to come forward, he asked.

Addressing the people of the area, Murray pleaded, "Search your own property. Use your imagination. I can't possibly cover every single place." He also called on people to ask their local agencies to help. "If somebody here did something, he is still with you," he warned.

"I am asking the people of the north country to call the FBI," Murray concluded.

Murray joined the search for his daughter 36 hours after she disappeared, but the Maitlands did not even learn of their daughter's disappearance until four or five days after the car was found. Bruce Maitland said that, despite a slow start and bad weather, "We've essentially covered the area" of Franklin County. "It's blatantly apparent that she's not here," he continued, adding that the police do not have the resources to look further.

Kelly Maitland said that "awful rumors" that Brianna had been found and descriptions of how "broke out" almost immediately after their daughter's disappearance became public. Those have continued, but by now the Maitlands have learned not to believe anything until they hear it from police.

One problem, said Bruce Maitland, is that if anyone over 12 years old disappears, it is first treated as a runaway. "She wasn't living with us at the time, but she didn't run away," he said. Uncashed paychecks, contact lenses, clothes, jewelry and medicine she needed were all in her car, a sure sign to her mother that she had not run away.

"It feels like we've reached a wall," said Maitland. "There's no structure that helps lead us now." Her husband proposed that every state should have one or two officers who are trained to investigate accident scenes and disappearances. He said he had made that recommendation to Gov. Jim Douglas..

"Schools are coming to close, and your kids are going to be out there walking the roads," her husband added. "These people need to be found."

"Not one more beautiful girl -- they're talented, they're intelligent. We're not losing one more," vowed Kelly Maitland.

"My daughter was missing eight months -- her body was found," said Charlotte Riley. "You can't imagine what it feels like. We're as much victims as my daughter was." She said her daughter, a high school dropout, had disappeared from a bar, and "no one took it seriously."

Riley shared information on the organizations she had learned about that can help families of missing children and adults. The first step, she said is to get a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) number which must be assigned by local police.

Calling on the press to "make the public aware," Riley said had been no press coverage for their daughter until her body was found, and it had been three months for authorities to recognize her as missing. "The system isn't working -- its just isn't working," said Riley. "We need to make the system work for all of us."

**The New Hampshire Union Leader, May 14, 2004, Dad can't give up search for daughter,  
Mike Recht**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
May 14, 2004

Dad can't give up search for daughter  
By Mike Recht

HAVERHILL -- There are 48 mountains in New Hampshire at least 4,000 feet high, and Fred Murray has climbed them all -- many of them with his daughter Maura. They snowshoed together, ran road races together.

When she was in high school, then at West Point and later at the University of Massachusetts as a nursing student, they would go away on camping weekends.

He coached her in softball and basketball, and in her early years, he picked her up from school every day.

"This kid is my buddy," he said.

But he hasn't seen her since early February.

Maura Murray disappeared after she failed to make a curve on rural Route 112 and hit a snowbank while driving the night of Feb. 9 in northwest New Hampshire. She escaped serious injury and asked a nearby resident who came by not to call police. He did anyway, but by the time they arrived, she had vanished into the wintry night, leaving her car and belongings behind.

She also left behind her mother and two sisters, one a police officer and the other a West Point graduate stationed at Fort Bragg, who might soon be sent to Iraq. And she left behind her father.

It's been three months and he hasn't given up hope of finding her, even if she is dead.

"Do I want to find her? Not really. I keep looking, but I don't want to be successful. It's a horrible position to be in," he said.

Murray said his daughter might have been distraught because she had another accident two days earlier. She also apparently planned to get away because she lied to professors about a death in the family and said she would be gone from class for the week, then packed her belongings as if she was moving out.

However, Murray believes she might have been the victim of foul play, although police said there is no evidence pointing in that direction.

Almost every weekend since Feb. 9, he has made the eight-hour round-trip drive from his home in Weymouth, Mass., to the Woodsville section of Haverhill. He searches the vast forest or knocks on



doors and questions neighbors who might have seen something. He also hands out fliers with Maura's picture.

His daughters and Maura's boyfriend, who is in the military, were able to help at first, and occasionally some volunteers join him. Last weekend, a couple from Vermont, the Maitlands, whose own daughter disappeared in March, searched with him.

But most of the time, he's alone, arriving Friday night, searching until dark Saturday and into late afternoon Sunday and then driving home.

He doesn't even think about whether he will make the trip.

"There's no decision to make. There's no option," he said. "As a father, I don't think about it. It's automatic.

"How am I able to stand this? I don't know. I make myself do it. It's got to be done. I don't want to be here.

"Some mornings I hate to wake up; I hate to open my eyes."

Last weekend was particularly difficult. The Maitlands were coming, and so were the Rileys of Manchester, whose daughter disappeared last August and was found dead in Manchester. The media was invited to call attention to their desperation.

"I knew I was going to have to talk about it," Murray said.

The searching is easier.

During the winter, he searched the snow for footprints. The snow is gone now, so he searches the woods alongside the road. He even climbs through culverts under the road, head down, looking for any clue.

"I don't want to look up, afraid of what I might see," he said. When he finds nothing, "it's a great relief," he said. "Not finding her (body) is encouraging."

He even searched the Kancamagus Highway -- one of her favorite places about 25 miles away -- should she have contemplated suicide, though he is quick to point out, "I don't think she did."

He doesn't know how long he will keep coming back, but there always is another area to search. Only recently, a man came forward and said he saw someone who matched Maura's description about five miles up the road from the accident scene. Maura, a runner and hiker, easily could have covered the 18 miles to Woodstock, or the five miles back into Woodsville and across the Connecticut River into Wells River, Vt., where a bus leaves at 11 every night.

"I don't think about how long I'll keep going," he said. "I search it and can put my mind at ease that I looked there."

## **The New Hampshire Union Leader, May 16, 2004, Lost -- and sometimes found in the White Mountains, Lorna Colquhoun**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
May 16, 2004

Lost -- and sometimes found in the White Mountains  
By Lorna Colquhoun

If nowhere is a place where no one has trod for decades, than Mount Kancamagus is in the middle of it.

A hiker found himself there last week on what the Appalachian Mountain Club's White Mountain Guide describes as a "trailless mass of round, wooded ridges" and where he stumbled upon human remains.

Several law enforcement officials returned with the man the next day to retrieve the remains and last week, dental records confirmed this was Steven Romines, a Massachusetts man who went missing almost 20 years ago, in October of 1984. Investigators say initial reports had indicated that he was "distraught" at the time and while no cause of death was determined, it is likely that he committed suicide.

"From where the location was, he was off the beaten path," said State Police Lt. John Scarinza, commander of Troop F in Twin Mountain.

The discovery was a bit of a wonder and a reminder of the secrets the mountains keep -- and sometimes reveal in their own time.

New Hampshire may be a small state and "sprawl" might be a buzzword in some parts of it, but there are places here where people get lost.

Sometimes they are never found.

Tough to find

Last week's recovery is certainly not the first time remains have been discovered after a significant length of time has passed.

Ten years ago, hikers on the Valley Way trail in Randolph discovered the remains of a Massachusetts woman. The Valley Way, the most direct and easiest trail to the AMC's Madison Hut, is a popular route. According to newspaper accounts, her remains were found no more than 75 feet off the trail.

She had been reported missing nine years before.

State Police Sgt. Bob Bruno can understand how difficult it is to find someone who wanted to be lost. He hiked up Mount Kancamagus last weekend.

"There was no trail," he said. "We were climbing up rock ledge and through small balsams. We put our heads down and just pushed."

And even when they got to the top of one of the ridges where the hiker took a GPS reading after discovering the bones, Bruno said they did not find them right away.

"Even with sophisticated equipment, we couldn't find it," he said.

Plenty of missing cases

Local police say they get field several calls a year from relatives reporting that loved ones may have headed for the mountains intending to end their lives. Veteran officers who have dealt with these situations say in such stressful moments, people return to an area where they had once found happiness or other spiritual reasons.

"How many others have there been over the years?" Bruno mused, noting that some people may have never been reported missing.

"I know there are others out there who have never been found. If I sat down, I could probably come up with quite a few others."

There is no list, per se, of people believed missing in the White Mountains. Bruno, a 24-year veteran of State Police, figured the remains he helped retrieve last week were either Romines' or another man who had been reported missing years before.

The remains were not of the young man who went missing in 1983 from Franconia Notch. He remains a mountain statistic whose fate has yet to unfold.

The Miller mystery

Michael Miller was 23 in 1983, up with friends from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for an October weekend. On that particular Sunday, according to newspaper accounts, he shouted "See you at the summit" to a group of friends and departed up the Old Bridle Path on Mount Lafayette.

It was 3 p.m. on that day, far too late to consider summitting the 5,260-foot mountain. He wore jeans, boots and a leather jacket over a sweater.

A search that lasted nearly a week followed, in weather conditions that deteriorated, as they do rapidly in the approach to winter. On the last day, winds howled at hurricane force.

To this day, nothing indicating what might have happened to him as ever been found.

"It happens," said Grafton County Sheriff Charlie Barry, a former director of the state's Fish and Game Department.

One of his most puzzling cases happened more than 30 years ago.

Ethel Conners' last walk

"Her name was Ethel Conners and she and her husband -- they were both in their 80s -- lived in Plymouth," he recalled.

One night, they took a ride up to a house they owned on Swain Hill in the Glencliff area of Warren. He started mowing the lawn. She changed her shoes and told him she was going to take a walk up the road.

"He kept mowing and when he finished, she never showed up," Barry said.

What followed was a massive search of the area, involving scores of people. Barry spent time in a helicopter searching from the air. Volunteers did line searches along the side of the road, in case she had been struck by a car and thrown into the woods.

"We searched from Glencliff to Warren," he said. "We never did locate her."

A case as puzzling as the Conners disappearance has been shaping up in the woods of Haverhill, where Maura Murray, a Massachusetts nursing student, was last seen following a minor car accident in February. Air and ground searches have failed to turn up any clues.

#### The Learjet

It has not only been people whose fates have been concealed by the mountains. In the past five decades, at least three planes had disappeared and were not discovered for lengthy periods of time.

The most recent, and perplexing, mystery was the Learjet that went missing out of Lebanon on Christmas Eve 1996. Unequipped with a locator device that would likely have denoted where it went down, the jet was found by an Orford forester, Quentin Mack, in a depression on Smart's Mountain in Dorchester.

It was missing for almost three years, despite intensive searches in the years that followed.

Mack told investigators that he had been within 100 yards of the crash site the week before.

"The notion people have that the woods are full of people is definitely not true," said Fish and Game Lt. Dave Hewitt the day after the crash was discovered. "There are many areas in the state where no human being has put a footprint on the ground in years and years."

That was the case in this area. There was no trail leading to the site -- getting there involved about 45 minutes of bushwhacking through some challenging terrain, but a little more than half a mile off a well-maintained logging road.

#### The Cessna

The Learjet was not the only aircraft crash in New Hampshire that went undiscovered. In June 1972, a hiker on Jennings Peak in Waterville Valley discovered the wreckage, and the body of the Iowa pilot still strapped inside, of a Cessna.

It had been missing since March 1966.

"It had been bound for Maine from Burlington, Vt.," said Paul Leavitt, the assistant Grafton County Sheriff, who was the Waterville Valley police chief at the time. He described the crash area as heavily wooded.

#### The Piper Comanche

The most fabled lost plane went down in February 1959, when two doctors on the staff of the Dartmouth Medical College were returning from an emergency in Berlin aboard a Piper Comanche.

That plane was missing for more than 80 days, recalled Barry, who was a young conservation officer at the time and had participated in the extensive search.

It was finally discovered that May, after a plane went up on a search. The Piper had gone down in the remote Pemigewasset wilderness, about 12 miles north of Lincoln and about nine miles off the Kancamagus Highway.

"The snow had melted and you could see it right from the air -- it was upside down," Barry said.

It was later found that the two doctors had survived for several days after the crash and had left notes for their families.

#### Mount Kinsman legend

There is other lore in these mountain places of people who went missing and were later found. Some have been lost in time, the legends outliving the archival knowledge of people who knew about it.

One of those legends comes out of the little town of Easton. In a slim volume of the town's history published in 1976, "Looking Back at Easton" tells the curious story of a Mormon settlement in the Easton Valley, on the slopes of Mount Kinsman.

"Legend has it that these people, originally from Vermont, were living here in the 1830s," the story goes. "One day, the people of the valley looked up toward the settlement and saw smoke from the chimneys. On going up to investigate, they found the stoves still warm, with pots of porridge cooling on them, but no sign of people."

It was surmised that these settlers had gone west where their leader, Joseph Smith, was establishing a home for the Church of the Latter Day Saints, according to the Easton history.

Robert Frost, who lived for several years in neighboring Franconia, immortalized the story in a poem, "A Fountain, A Bottle, A Donkey's Ears and Some Books." In it, Frost is badgering a local man to take him to the ruins of the settlement.

"To shut you up, I'll tell you what I'll do:

I'll find that fountain if it takes all summer

And both our united strengths to do it."

"You lost it, then?"

"Not so, but I can find it.

No doubt it's grown up some to woods around it."

Frost never found the settlement, nor has anyone else over the years. The Easton history notes that determining who these Mormons were, where they lived, and when they lived in town "has been an absorbing task."

## **The Caledonian-Record, May 21, 2004, Another Person Reported Missing - Man Fails To Return From Walk By Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
May 21, 2004

Another Person Reported Missing - Man Fails To Return From Walk  
By Gary E. Lindsley

A 24-year-old man is the fourth person to be reported missing since the beginning of this year in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and the North Country of New Hampshire.

Matthew Harris, a coordinator of a meditation course at Karne Choling in Barnet, was last seen leaving the Buddhist meditation retreat at 3 p.m. Tuesday. He had a walking stick and a day pack.

Officials at Karne Choling reported Harris missing at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

State police Sgt. Robert Clark doesn't believe there is any connection to the disappearance of three other people.

Another 24-year-old man, Timothy Young of Glover, Vt., was the first to be reported missing. Glover, who is 6 feet tall, weighs 180 pounds and has blond hair, was last seen Jan. 20.

On Feb. 9, 21-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student Maura Murray disappeared after being involved in a minor one-car accident on Route 112 in the town of Haverhill, N.H.

She is a 5-foot, 7-inch brunette, weighs 115 pounds and has blue eyes.

Another young woman, 17-year-old Brianna Maitland of Sheldon, Vt., hasn't been seen since she clocked out of work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery around 11:20 the night of March 19.

Maitland has medium dark brown hair, hazel eyes, weighs about 105-110 pounds and is 5 feet 4 inches tall.

Although a missing person report has been filed on Harris, Clark does not believe he fits in the missing person category.

Clark said Harris has departed for areas unknown without telling anybody in the past. He does not believe Harris' disappearance is connected in any way to those of Young, Murray and Maitland.

"He is a free-spirited traveler," he said. "You can't lump him in with the others. He may not know he is (listed as) missing. He has a history of traveling the world while following different religious organizations."

Clark said during 2001-02, Harris took off without telling anybody where he was going. He was found in the Amazon in Peru emaciated, weighing only 82 pounds.

Then, from November 2003 to February 2004, he went to Scotland, following a religious sect.

"It's not like a 14-year-old girl who lives next to me and does not show up for work," Clark said as an example. "She's a missing person. That scenario is different from this."

State police have issued a bulletin to all police agencies in New England to be on the lookout for Harris.

If a police officer spots Harris, he or she is to ensure Harris is OK. The police officer is then supposed to contact Clark.

"He has a right to (go anywhere he wants)," Clark said. "He has a right not to have police following him. This is completely, completely different than the other three. This is a kid with a history (of taking off)."

Harris' father, Paul, doesn't agree.

He said when Matthew took off for the Amazon, he had let him and his wife, Anne, know. The same was the case when he went to Scotland.

"He had told us he was going to the Amazon," Harris said. "He called and told us he was going on a slow boat down the Amazon and we wouldn't hear from him four or five weeks."

When the five weeks had come and gone and they hadn't heard anything, the Harrises became concerned. Through the help of a shortwave radio operator, they learned he was in a Peruvian village and in bad shape.

Harris said Matthew went with the head of Karme Choling, Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche, to Scotland for about three months.

"It's sort of like being asked by the pope to be his assistant," Harris said.

His son, he said, is very learned and intelligent. "He is very generous and outgoing," he said. "We (once) gave him a watch. We asked him several months later how he liked his watch. He said he had given it to someone who needed it more."

Harris had praise for Karme Choling. "They are a terrific organization and they have treated Matt fantastically well. This is very out of character for him."

Founded in 1970 by ChÜgyam Trungpa Rinpoche, KarmÉ ChÜling offers year-round meditation retreats and yoga retreats.

Matthew, according to his father, left behind his passport, clothes and study materials.

Josh Silberstein, the retreat's health and well-being director, said Matthew had worked at Karme Choling for 21/2 years until October 2003.



Silberstein said Matthew had returned in February to work as coordinator of a meditation program.

He said Matthew was last seen by Bill Brauer, Karne Choling's director. "It's not uncommon for people to go for a walk," Silberstein said. "So, Director Brauer did not think anything about it."

Like Matthew's father, Silberstein said the 24-year-old's disappearance is out of character.

When Matthew did not show up for dinner at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Silberstein was notified. "Then, we did an exhaustive search of the land," he said, which consists of 675 acres of fields, forest and hills.

The search ran from 7:15 to 10:30 Tuesday night. Then, it resumed at 10:30 Wednesday morning. The search of the property ended about 12:30 p.m.

Then, members of Karne Choling drove about 20 miles south and north on Interstate 91. They also searched sections of Route 5.

When 3 p.m. Wednesday arrived, and Matthew had not returned, Silberstein said state police were notified.

Silberstein said Matthew did not appear to be despondent or depressed any more than anyone else, until the day he disappeared. "After lunch, it was noticed he was more erratic," he said. "His demeanor changed. He was not there ... he was off thinking about something. He was not as interactive as he normally was."

Matthew is fluent in Spanish and can speak some French and Italian. He also knows sign language.

He is 6 feet, 2 inches tall, weighs 175 pounds, has blond, close cropped hair, and has a red and blue chain-like tattoo around his left arm. He also wears glasses.

Anyone with information about Matthew's whereabouts are asked to call state police at 802-748-3111.

**The Patriot Ledger, May 24, 2004, Coping pains families of the missing: Says mother of Molly Bish, it's 'like a bad movie', Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger  
May 24, 2004

Coping pains families of the missing: Says mother of Molly Bish, it's 'like a bad movie'  
By Joe McGee

Magi Bish remembers the "fragile Fridays," an end-of-the-week prayer ritual of asking God for one more week of strength to continue looking for her missing daughter, Molly.

And Maureen Lemieux will never forget going to bed and not wanting to wake up when her 10-year-old granddaughter, Holly Piirainen, went missing.

With the search for Maura Murray more than three months old, times also have turned desperate for family and friends of the 22-year-old Hanson woman who disappeared on Feb. 9 in Haverhill, N.H. There is no trace of Murray. Her ATM and cell phone have been dormant. Woods have been searched by ground and air several times.

Bish and Lemieux, who lived through the same anguish in two of the state's highest-profile missing person cases, said the need to know what happened is indescribable.

"Evil is what this is," Magi Bish said. "It's like a bad movie and you can't get out, and the fear when you don't know what happened, it can make people cross over. I fought the mental monsters every day."

Maura Murray's family has traveled to New Hampshire countless times. Every weekend they make the four-hour trek from the family home in Hanson to New Hampshire to canvass rural woods and interview people they have never met in hopes of finding any scrap of information.

Bish said it is hard to explain how someone makes it that long with little hope of seeing their child alive again. Investigators last spring found Molly Bish's skeletal remains 5 miles from the Bish home in West Warren. Molly had been last seen in June 2000 at Cummins Pond in Warren, where she worked as a lifeguard.

Magi Bish and her husband, John, devised their own coping mechanism during the three years of not knowing Molly's fate.

"We had what we called 'fragile Fridays.' If we got through one more week, we knew we could do it again the next," Bish said.

Maura Murray's father, Fred Murray, has been the most active figure in the search for his daughter. His public criticism of police, his consultation with a psychic and his compulsive hikes to New Hampshire are all symptoms of the aching quest to know what happened, Maureen Lemieux said.

Lemieux's granddaughter Holly Piirainen was found dead about two months after being abducted from her family's summer cottage in Sturbridge in August 1993.

"Mostly my son went out," Lemieux said. "They took ATVs, four-wheel-drive vehicles, whatever they could do up in the woods, looking around. They went with psychics. You don't want to leave any stone unturned. If somebody thought they had an idea, you went with it. If there was a psychic or anyone that sounded reasonable, we left immediately and searched."

The Bish family has spoken to Fred Murray and offered their support. Magi Bish said she identifies with Fred's tireless spirit. It is all you have in a situation like this, she said.

"If you're a 'doer,' and Fred sounds like he is, you just go. I'm sure it's hard because they live so far away, but you just do it. You're never prepared," Bish said.

As the weeks pass, the frustration grows for investigators.

New Hampshire State Police Sgt. Thomas York said police have followed up on every piece of information. Detectives are still active on the case, but the ground searches will be discontinued until a credible tip comes along. York said he realizes they may never find Maura.

Recently New Hampshire state police found the remains of Steven Romines, a Massachusetts man who disappeared in the White Mountains 20 years ago. It can take that long, York said.

"We're coming to the end of what we can possibly do," York said. "I hope that things turn out for the best for Maura, I really do."

Reality is also setting in for Murray's college friends in Amherst that they may never see her again. Kate Markopoulos, a track teammate of Murray's at UMass, said she is getting classmates' E-mails addresses and phone numbers to stay in touch after she graduates. Markopoulos was taking finals last week and packing to return home to upstate New York.

"I think it'll hit me after I graduate because I'll start calling people and I can't call Maura," Markopoulos said.

"She was one of the people I planned on keeping in contact with after school, especially because she loved where I'm from because it's near the Adirondacks. She loved hiking," Markopoulos said.

Joe McGee may be reached at [jmcgee@ledger.com](mailto:jmcgee@ledger.com).

**The Caledonian-Record, May 25, 2004, Petition Drive Demands Action In Maitland Case - Seeks Action From Governor Douglas, By Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
May 25, 2004

Petition Drive Demands Action In Maitland Case - Seeks Action From Governor Douglas  
By Gary E. Lindsley

The fear in her grandson's voice was the final straw for Lou Byam of Franklin.

Byam has mounted a petition drive to demand Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas, Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, and Vermont Public Safety Commissioner Kerry Sleeper take definitive action in the disappearance of 17-year-old Brianna Maitland of Sheldon.

"My grandson, who is 14, said, 'I don't want to come up here,'" Byam said. Her grandson did not want to visit her in northern Vermont because of the disappearance of Maitland and his concern for his own safety.

"He's scared," Byam said. "Parents are scared. Everyone's scared. We want answers and we aren't getting them."

The petitions, which are being circulated around sections of northern Vermont, read, "We, the undersigned concerned citizens of the state of Vermont, summer residents and tourists of the state of Vermont, do hereby petition the governor, lieutenant governor and the Vermont State Police Commissioner to figure out a way to find Brianna Maitland, no matter what it takes to get her home!

"We, as parents, friends, family, community, state, caring humans and taxpayers say enough is enough! It is time to do whatever it takes to get Brianna and others like her home."

The petition also notes because Maitland has not been found, it is time to bring in help, more resources.

"We live in fear for our children's health, safety, welfare and their lives," it reads. "Our children no longer have the freedom as an American citizen to walk, ride their bicycles, go shopping or drive their vehicles safely in our state!

"The government's first duty is to make sure its citizens are safe from crime. We are angry and want the wheels of motivation kicked into high gear. Bring Bri home now!"

Maitland has not been seen since she clocked out of work at the Black Lantern Inn late the night of March 19. Her vehicle was found partially ensconced in an abandoned building about a mile from the inn early March 20.

She disappeared more than a month after 21-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student Maura Murray was involved in a one-car accident on rural Route 112 in the town of Haverhill, N.H.

Murray has not been seen since walking away from the accident scene the night of Feb. 9.

"Our children are our most valuable resources," Byam said. "The way the state police handled this since day one has been unacceptable. It kills me. Every day we see Bruce and Kellie (Brianna's parents). We want our state back. We want Brianna back."

"I hope it works," Kellie Maitland said, referring to the petitions. "I am starting to get desperate."

Bettina Desrochers, who is from St. Johnsbury, also is upset about the two missing young women. "It seems as if not enough is being done," she said. "We need more help. There isn't anything wrong with asking for more help."

As a parent of daughters whom she said are all beautiful, young and outgoing, her heart goes out to the Maitlands, as well as to Fred Murray, Maura's father.

With summer nearing, she is concerned about students getting out of school and their safety. "Wouldn't you want to know (the disappearances) are being handled properly?" Desrochers said.

Carolyn Gendron, who lives in Richford, also believes the investigation into Brianna's disappearance was botched from the start. She said common sense says if Brianna left behind her paychecks and driver's license, she didn't disappear willingly.

"They should know a kid wouldn't leave money behind," she said, referring to the state police. "As a parent, if it was my daughter, I don't think I could be as calm as Mr. and Mrs. Maitland."

Gendron believes the best investigators the state police have should be involved in the investigation. She also believes the FBI should be asked to be a major part of the search for Brianna.

Gendron said she almost lost her own daughter a few years ago. "Our daughter was coming home from a study group when she noticed a car kept driving by her," she said.

When there was an open area, the car pulled in front of Gendron's then 16-year-old daughter and the occupants screamed for her to get in the car. "She froze," Gendron said. "Luckily, a friend came forward and saw her and took her away."

So, she said, she got a little bit of a taste of what the Maitlands must be going through. "I can't imagine going to bed every night not knowing where this child is," Gendron said.

She truly believes there is a connection between Brianna's and Maura's disappearances. "They are too much alike," Gendron said. "They need to do a lot more to bring these girls home."

Bruce Maitland has put out his own plea to Vermont officials. "Brianna is not a runaway no matter how much the Vermont State Police ... try to play down her abduction," he wrote in a letter to the editor to area newspapers. "We desperately need you to step up for what is right and demand a large investigation involving many plainclothes/additional federal people on the ground to find Brianna and Maura before the trail goes any colder."

Today is Missing Children's Day. Carol Knowlton of the Mt. Angel, Ore.-based Child Seek Network will be reading Brianna's and Maura's names at a Missing Children's Day rally in Salem, Ore.

## **The Caledonian-Record, May 26, 2004, Fred Murray Appeals To Governor Benson - Says Police Failed His Daughter, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
Wednesday, May 26, 2004

Fred Murray Appeals To Governor Benson Says Police Failed His Daughter  
By Gary E. Lindsley

The father of a missing 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student is appealing to Gov. Craig Benson to urge New Hampshire State Police to call in the FBI for help in finding his daughter.

Maura Murray has been missing since she was involved in a minor one-car accident the evening of Feb. 9 after her black 1996 Saturn failed to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve on Route 112 in Haverhill.

"The finest resource in the world is available and you, sir, should direct Lieutenant John Scarinza and Troop F to accept its offer," Fred Murray said in his letter. "There are corollary cases in Vermont also and this entire situation begs for central coordination and investigation by an agency which is not bound by the confines of configuration of Grafton County and the Connecticut River." Scarinza is the commander of Troop F, which is based in Twin Mountain.

Murray also was referring to Brianna Maitland, 17, of Sheldon, Vt., who disappeared after she left work late the night of March 19. Her car was found partially ensconced in an abandoned building about one mile from the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery where she worked.

Murray noted the FBI offered its assistance during the week of his daughter's disappearance. However, state police declined the offer. Scarinza said the FBI was involved in background searches and gathering information in Massachusetts. He has said the state police have enough resources to conduct an investigation into Maura's disappearance.

Besides asking Benson to direct the state police to call in the FBI, Murray also has claimed state police and Haverhill police had been grossly negligent because a cruiser was not dispatched east along Route 112 to help find his daughter after her accident.

He said police arrived within minutes after Maura was last seen by an eyewitness. "This means that when the police reached the scene, Maura could have been no further than a couple of hundred yards up the road around the first corner walking away," Murray said in his letter.

Police, including Sgt. Cecil Smith of the Haverhill Police Department, were told the driver of the car was a young woman about 20 years old. "There was an empty beer bottle found in the car and in addition, there was a spider hole in the driver's side of the windshield indicating that she had struck her head at impact," Murray's letter reads.

Murray said police should have called ahead to the Woodstock Police Department so officers from that community could have driven west to intercept Maura on the dark, desolate highway.

"She was figuratively and nearly literally right there readily available to be rescued and saved from whatever fate has befallen her," Murray said in his letter. "All that the police had to do was to expend minimal mental and physical effort."

If they had done so, Murray said, Maura would be safe with him today. "Unfortunately, the police neglected to make even the most basic effort to find her and I remain without her now, and perhaps, forever," Murray's letter continued. "The onus of this irresponsible and possibly fatal lack of action lies not only with the North Haverhill force, but also with the New Hampshire State Police who responded to the 911 calls from the neighbors as well."

Another witness is believed to have spotted Maura, who is a track star and runner, about four to five miles east of the accident scene running toward Woodstock. "I get nearly physically sick when I wake up each morning and the thought of how really little effort it would have taken to rescue my daughter automatically flashes through my mind," Murray said in his letter.

In addition to sending the letter to Benson, Murray also sent copies of it to New Hampshire Attorney General Peter Heed, state police Col. Frederick Booth, and U.S. Sen. John Sununu and Judd Gregg. Alicia Preston, Benson's press secretary, said Benson had not received the letter as of late Tuesday afternoon.

However, Murray said according to tracking records on the U.S. Postal Service Web site, Benson, Heed, Booth, Sununu and Gregg's offices received the letters Monday morning. "The young women in the northern region of your state are not safe and it is clearly imperative that you act decisively before you lose another," Murray stated in his letter. "Deep within themselves, your citizens are nervously apprehensive and anxiously awaiting your response to this threat." Booth could not be reached for comment Tuesday. And Simon Brown, chief of the attorney general's criminal bureau, said he was not aware of Murray's letter.



## **Fred Murray's Letter to Governor Benson, May 26, 2004**

Fred Murray's Letter to Governor Benson  
May 26, 2004

Mr. Frederick Murray

Governor Craig Benson  
Office of the Governor  
107 North Main Street  
Room 208  
Concord NH 03301

Governor Benson:

My daughter, Maura Murray, went missing after a one car accident on February 9, 2004 at approximately 7:00 PM while she was heading east on Route 112 near North Haverhill, New Hampshire. Eye witnesses place her at the crash site at one (1) to two (2) minutes before the local police arrived and no one was seen to stop and pick her up in a vehicle. This means that when the police reached the scene Maura could have been no further than a couple of hundred yards up the road around the first corner walking away. Another witness who stopped and talked with her reported to the police upon their arrival that the driver of the car was a young woman of approximately twenty (20) years of age. He added that he thought she had been drinking. There was an empty beer bottle found in the car and in addition, there was a spider hole in the driver's side of the windshield indicating that she had struck her head at impact. The temperature that evening was twelve (12) degrees.

Given these known facts it was grossly negligent of the police to not dispatch a cruiser in active pursuit in a spirited effort to retrieve an unsuspecting and vulnerable girl with a possible head injury and subject to hypothermia because of alcohol and frigid temperature before she wandered into the pitch black of the national forest looming just ahead.

The police had full knowledge that if she were to encounter someone with ill intent that she would have no place to hide, no place to run and absolutely no help available.

Furthermore, duty as well as common sense obligates the police to call ahead to the next town in the direction they had to assume she was heading. They knew they had not passed her as they drove east to the accident site during their response to the "911" call. The Woodstock police were not notified nor asked to send an officer to intercept her by driving west in the direction in which she was approaching.

She was figuratively and nearly literally "right there" readily available to be rescued and saved from whatever fate has befallen her. All that the police had to do was to expend minimal mental and physical effort and my daughter, Maura would be safely here with me today. But, unfortunately, the police neglected to make even the most basic effort to find her, and I remain without her now and perhaps forever.

The onus of this irresponsible and possibly fatal lack of action lies not only with the North Haverhill force, but also with the New Hampshire State Police who responded to the “911” calls from the neighbors as well.

Recently, nearly three (3) months after the accident, a motorist who was driving west on Route 112 at about 8:00 PM on February 9 reported seeing a young person acting furtively heading very fast in an easterly direction at a point about four (4) to five (5) miles away from the scene of the crash. The time line and description of the individual’s appearance and clothing fits perfectly for this person to have been Maura.

This witness lives within just yards of the accident site, but said he had been confused about the exact date and time of that event because the state police had not interviewed him until 10 days had passed. As hard as this is to believe, it is actually true since an investigator helping the family questioned him on Sunday, February 15 and he said the police hadn’t been there to talk to him yet. At this point I appealed directly to the state police to pay attention to rudimentary procedure and turned our notes over to them. This apparently prompted a belated response which led to the questioning of this witness on Thursday, February 19.

That this nearly immediately located neighbor who could have been a prime source of critical information should have been questioned in a timely fashion on the very evening of the accident or, at the latest, on the following day is a fully reasonable expectation of adequate investigative policy. If this had occurred this person would have had immediate recollection of the sighting of my daughter and a “hot lead” would have ensued.

Statistics, which are very well known by state police agencies, indicate that cases get solved from tips received in the first two or three days or they can go cold forever. To wait ten days to speak to such an obvious source of potentially crucial information based on his proximity to the event will be hard to explain even for those adept at this skill. It is no wonder that the state police are reluctant to release to me their accident report to which I am probably legally entitled.

I get nearly physically sick when I wake up each morning and the thought of how really little effort it would have taken to rescue my daughter automatically flashes through my mind.

It has been over three months since her disappearance and the only leads developed have been handed to the state police by others. Yet still these guys maintain that they don’t need any help. The FBI offered its assistance during the opening week of this case but have only been utilized in a very minor way such as interviewing family members and high school friends in Maura’s hometown of Hanson, MA, and also a couple of college acquaintances.

These state police officers are great people personally, and I like them and respect them. They are the type of men and women that both you and I would be very pleased to have living in our own neighborhoods, but the inescapable reality remains that they clearly need help in finding Maura.

The finest resource in the world is available and you, sir, should direct Lieutenant John Scarinza and Troop F to accept its offer. There are corollary cases in Vermont also and this entire situation begs for central co-ordination and investigation by an agency which is not bound by the confines of the configuration of Grafton County and the Connecticut River.

The young women in the northern region of your state are not safe and it is clearly imperative that you act decisively before you lose another. Deep within themselves, your citizens are nervously apprehensive and anxiously awaiting your response to this threat.

Respectfully,

Fred Murray

**Portsmouth Herald, May 28, 2004, Missing woman's father asks gov. to get FBI help**

Portsmouth Herald

May 28, 2004

Missing woman's father asks gov. to get FBI help

CONCORD (AP) — The father of a missing University of Massachusetts nursing student has asked Gov. Craig Benson for help to get the FBI involved in the case.

Fred Murray of Weymouth, Mass., wants the governor to urge New Hampshire State Police to call in the FBI for help in finding Maura Murray.

She has been missing since the evening of Feb. 9 after a minor accident in which she failed to make a curve on Route 112 outside Haverhill.

**The Caledonian-Record, May 29, 2004, FBI Involved In Investigation - Brianna Maitland Disappearance, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
May 29, 2004

FBI Involved In Investigation - Brianna Maitland Disappearance  
Gary E. Lindsley

Experts from the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Laboratory in Quantico, Va., are involved in the investigation of the disappearance of 17-year-old Brianna Maitland.

Maitland, who lives in Sheldon, Vt., has not been seen nor heard from since she clocked out of work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery around 11:30 p.m. March 19.

William McSalis, a supervisory senior agent in the FBI's Burlington office, confirmed late Friday afternoon the FBI is involved in the Maitland case.

In fact, McSalis said the FBI has been working closely with Vermont State Police nearly since the inception of the case.

Maitland's car was found early the morning of March 20 partially ensconced in an abandoned building about a mile from the tavern where she worked.

She left two paychecks behind in the car.

Bruce and Kellie Maitland, along with Fred Murray, father of 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student Maura Murray, have been demanding the state police in both Vermont and New Hampshire bring in the FBI to find their daughters.

Maura Murray disappeared the night of Feb. 9 after being involved in a minor, one-car accident on rural Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H.

McSalis said he could not say whether the FBI is involved in the Murray case as well. FBI officials in Boston could not be reached for comment Friday.

Regarding the Maitland disappearance, McSalis said the FBI was contacted by Vermont State Police not long after it was determined Maitland was missing.

Since then, and most importantly, he said, the behavioral sciences group from Quantico has been reviewing what has been done in the case by Vermont State Police.

FBI experts, who also can be called profilers, are using the information supplied by state police to see if it matches up with similar cases elsewhere in the country.

McSalis said a lot of work has been done so far by the group from Quantico. However, he would not discuss what evidence, if any, has been reviewed nor whether any FBI agents have visited Vermont and the accident scene because it is an on-going investigation.

McSalis also would not confirm published media reports that the team would soon be headed not only to Vermont for the Maitland case, but also to New Hampshire to investigate the Murray disappearance.

"We are working closely with the Vermont State Police," he said. "We don't want to go into details."

Lee Pugh, a spokesman from the FBI's Albany, N.Y., office, said he knows the Vermont State Police have conducted a very thorough investigation.

"We have been monitoring the case," Pugh said. "The full services of the FBI have been utilized to some degree."

## **The Caledonian-Record, May 31, 2004, Another Vermont Woman Reported Missing - Police Find Her Jeep, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
May 31, 2004

Another Vermont Woman Reported Missing - Police Find Her Jeep  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Lamoille County authorities are asking for the public's help in finding a 35-year-old Johnson woman who hasn't been seen since Thursday morning -- the third woman to disappear in Northern New England since Feb. 9.

Jodie Whitney, who has a 3-year-old child, was last seen by her husband, Edgar, before he left for work Thursday morning. She not only failed to show up for work at Stoweflake Resort in Stowe, but she also did not return home.

Like the two other women who are missing, Whitney is described as a petite woman.

On Feb. 9, 21-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student Maura Murray disappeared after she was involved in a minor one-car accident on Route 112 in the town of Haverhill, N.H.

A little more than a month later, 17-year-old Brianna Maitland of Sheldon, Vt., disappeared after she left work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery late the night of March 19. Maitland's vehicle was found about a mile from the Black Lantern Inn, partially ensconced inside an abandoned building.

Sheriff Roger Marcoux said Whitney's white Jeep Cherokee was found within a 5-mile radius of her home by a citizen Friday afternoon.

Marcoux is not releasing where the vehicle was found because it's part of the ongoing investigation.

He said the vehicle is being looked at by a Vermont State Police crime lab team.

Kellie Maitland, Brianna's mother, was heartbroken to learn another woman had disappeared.

"I believe it's (the work of) a serial killer," Maitland said. "And the clock is ticking.

"One is too many," she went on to say. "Enough is enough! They (law enforcement) should pull out all the stops."

Marcoux said there isn't anything to lead investigators to believe there is any connection between Whitney's disappearance and the disappearances of Maitland and Murray.

"We have no evidence to tie them together at this point," he said.

Marcoux said police are conducting a missing person's investigation into Whitney's disappearance because nothing so far has indicated a criminal act has been committed.

He said Whitney is a reservations supervisor at Stoweflake Resort. She was supposed to be at work at 8 a.m.

When she had not returned home by 10 p.m. Thursday, her husband reported her missing.

"This is very out of character for her," Marcoux said. "She seems to be a very responsible person ... she has a young 3-year-old child at home."

Co-workers and members of Whitney's family have been interviewed, he said.

"Everything seemed fine," Marcoux said, referring to Thursday morning when Whitney's husband last saw her.

Investigators are tracking down some leads. One, according to Marcoux, came from officials at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

They reported they had a woman in the hospital possibly fitting Whitney's description. Investigators went to Dartmouth, but the woman was not Whitney.

Marcoux said about 50 law enforcement officers and the New England canine team, led by Vermont State Police Search and Rescue, conducted a ground search Saturday of an area consisting of a 1-mile radius of where Whitney's vehicle was found.

That search area was expanded, but nothing was found. An aerial search was conducted Sunday.

Authorities also searched about 3 miles of the Gihon River.

Whitney is described as being 5-feet, 3-inches tall and weighing 110-pounds. She has shoulder-length brown hair and brown eyes.

People with any information about Whitney should call the Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept. at 802-888-3502.



**The New Hampshire Union Leader, June 2, 2004, NH, Vt. bound by disappearances,  
Wilson Ring**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
June 2, 2004

NH, Vt. bound by disappearances  
By Wilson Ring

MONTPELIER, Vt. -- Investigators in Vermont are planning to meet with their counterparts in New Hampshire to compare notes after the third woman went missing in the region since February, a sheriff said.

The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department is working with the Vermont State Police in their search for Jodie Whitney, said Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux.

The only common thread between the cases is the vehicles, said Marcoux.

"We've got three women missing and in each case there has been an abandoned vehicle found," Marcoux said yesterday.

The latest case began last Thursday when the husband of 35-year-old Jodie Whitney of Johnson reported his wife missing. Marcoux said Whitney never arrived at her job on Thursday morning at the Stoweflake Resort in Stowe.

"This individual is a very reliable person. She doesn't miss work. She's never late. She has a supervisory position. She has a 3-year-old daughter at home," Marcoux said. "This is very out of character for her."

Whitney's car was found abandoned the next day. Marcoux wouldn't reveal where the car was found other than to say it was within five miles of her home.

Whitney is described as being 5-feet, 3-inches tall and weighing 110-pounds. She has shoulder-length brown hair and brown eyes.

Marcoux said he called the Vermont State Police and investigators started working on the case immediately.

"This is a joint investigation with the state police and if there are a lot of similarities, we are going to know it," Marcoux said. "We are pouring resources into it right from the get go."

The Whitney disappearance comes in the aftermath of the February disappearance of Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts student who had a minor, single-vehicle traffic accident in Haverhill, N.H. On March 19, Brianna Maitland of Sheldon disappeared after leaving her job in Montgomery.

Haverhill is roughly 100 miles from Montgomery and Johnson is between the two, about 26 miles from Montgomery.

"I haven't seen any cases like this in Vermont," Marcoux said.

Marcoux says Vermont investigators will meet with New Hampshire detectives to see if any additional links can be found.

"The state police are in the process of contacting them. There is a meeting being scheduled with investigators from the three cases just to make sure we're not missing anything," he said.

Marcoux said it appeared to be coincidence that Whitney's mother Cheryl Peters was shot to death in Morrisville in 1994. No one has ever been charged in that case.

**Boston Globe, June 3, 2004, Police Say Husband Confesses in Slaying - New England in Brief / Hyde Park, VT.**

Boston Globe  
June 3, 2004

Police Say Husband Confesses in Slaying  
New England in Brief / Hyde Park, VT.

The husband of a Johnson woman missing since last week has confessed to killing her, police said last night. Earlier in the day investigators discovered the body of a woman but officials said they could not positively identify it as that of Jodie Whitney. At a late- afternoon news conference held to announce the discovery of the body, Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux described Edgar Whitney as a suspect in the disappearance of his wife. Edgar Whitney tried to kill himself by overdosing on pills yesterday morning, said Marcoux. Marcoux said investigators were still looking for links between the cases of two other missing women from the region. Marcoux and a State Police detective were still planning to meet Friday with New Hampshire detectives to look for links between the cases. In February Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts student, disappeared after a minor car accident in Haverhill, N.H., about 75 miles from Johnson. In March, Brianna Maitland of Sheldon disappeared after leaving her job in Montgomery.

## **The Caledonian-Record, June 3, 2004, Police Say Husband Confesses To Murder - Missing Woman's Body Believed Found, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
June 3, 2004

Police Say Husband Confesses To Murder - Missing Woman's Body Believed Found  
By Gary E. Lindsley

The husband of a missing 35-year-old Johnson woman has confessed to killing her, Vermont State Police said Wednesday evening. Police also announced that a woman's body, believed to be that of Jodie Whitney, had been found that afternoon.

Lt. Leo Bachand, the state police Troop B Criminal Division commander, said Edgar Whitney, while being interviewed at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington late Wednesday afternoon, confessed to killing his wife.

Whitney notified police around 10 p.m. May 27 that his wife, Jodie, had not returned home. She had not arrived to work at the Stoweflake Resort in Stowe that day. He reported last seeing her that morning before he left for work.

Jodie's white Jeep Cherokee was found by a citizen within a 5-mile radius of the Whitney home Friday.

Authorities from the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department, state police Search and Rescue Team, the state police Criminal Division, and police officers from Stowe and Morrisville, have been working together to find Jodie, according to Bachand.

Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux, during a press conference in front of the Lamoille County Courthouse late Wednesday afternoon, said the pace of the investigation was stepped up after authorities received a phone call that Edgar had taken some pills. Authorities are not releasing what the pills were.

"Right now, he is our best suspect," Marcoux said.

Bachand said family members called for an ambulance around 6:30 Wednesday morning after Edgar had taken an overdose of pills.

Edgar was first taken to Copley Hospital in Morrisville after overdosing before being transferred to Fletcher Allen Health Care.

According to Marcoux, it was information from family members which led to the discovery of what they believe to be Jodie's body.

He would not say what had happened between Tuesday night and Wednesday which led him and other investigators to believe Edgar was involved in his wife's disappearance.

While Marcoux was holding a press conference late Wednesday afternoon about Edgar Whitney's apparent suicide attempt Wednesday morning, and the finding of a woman's body during the afternoon, Edgar was confessing to killing his wife, Bachand said.

Wednesday afternoon, according to Bachand, at 1:45, a search team of about 25 combed an area beyond the original 5-mile radius already searched. They found the body of a woman at 2:03 p.m. who Bachand said was believed to be that of Jodie. He said the body matched Jodie's description.

Marcoux said a positive identification is pending.

After the press conference Wednesday, Marcoux would not say exactly where the body was found. He also said more information about the cause of death will be available once an autopsy is conducted.

Both Marcoux and Bachand said they had not seen the body because once it was discovered, the crime scene was sealed off to everyone except for the Vermont State Police crime lab team.

The body, according to Bachand was found deep in the woods, a ways off "the beaten path."

Bachand said Medical Examiner Paul Morrow will be conducting the autopsy in Burlington this morning.

Marcoux said he did not know if Edgar had a criminal record. And when asked whether there was a history of domestic violence in the Whitneys' marriage, he would not comment.

However, later Wednesday, Bachand said there was a restraining order requested against Edgar Whitney last year but was withdrawn. He said the information is available in court records.

Edgar, he said, is still in the hospital. As of Wednesday night, charges had not been filed. Bachand said State Attorney Joel Page will decide what charges to file once the investigation is complete. An arraignment, if there is one, will take place at the Lamoille County Courthouse.

Prior to the discovery of the body, Edgar's overdose and his alleged confession, Marcoux and Bachand had set up a meeting for 10 a.m. Friday with New Hampshire State Police and FBI agents to discuss the disappearances of Jodie Whitney, Brianna Maitland and Maura Murray.

On Sunday, Marcoux said there wasn't any indication Jodie's disappearance was tied to the disappearances of 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student Murray and 17-year-old Maitland of Sheldon, Vt.

Although Marcoux and Bachand now do not believe there is any connection between the three cases, the meeting will still proceed at the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department office.

"We want to keep the other cases in the spotlight," Marcoux said. Bachand agreed. He said it is important to have everyone together talking about the cases.

Besides Bachand, also assisting Marcoux and his department with the Whitney investigation are Sgt. Tim Cloutre and Detective Bob Cushing, both from the St. Johnsbury area.

**Lowell Sun, June 3, 2004, Husband says he killed missing Vt. woman**

Lowell Sun  
June 3, 2004

News Digest

Husband says he killed missing Vt. woman

HYDE PARK, Vt. (AP) — The husband of a Johnson woman missing since last week has confessed to killing her, police said last evening. Earlier in the day investigators discovered the body of a woman but officials said they could not positively identify it as that of Jodie Whitney. Investigators are looking for links among the cases of two other missing women from the region. In February Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts student, disappeared after a traffic accident in Haverhill, N.H., about 75 miles from Johnson. In March, Brianna Maitland of Sheldon disappeared after leaving her job in Montgomery, about 25 miles from Johnson.

## **New Hampshire Union Leader, June 3, 2004, Husband confesses to killing missing wife, Wilson Ring**

New Hampshire Union Leader / St Albans Daily Messenger  
June 3, 2004

Husband confesses to killing missing wife  
By Wilson Ring

Hyde Park, Vt. -- The husband of a Johnson woman missing since last week has confessed to killing her, police said last night.

Earlier in the day investigators discovered the body of a woman but officials said they could not positively identify it as that of Jodie Whitney.

The sheriff's office announced last night that Edgar Whitney had confessed.

Deputy Sheriff Andrew Glover said an autopsy on the body was scheduled to be performed today, when officials from the state crime lab would also continue to search the Whitney's house.

At a news conference held yesterday to announce the discovery of the body, Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux described Edgar Whitney as a suspect in the disappearance of his wife.

"Right now he is the best suspect we have," Marcoux said.

He tried to kill himself by overdosing on pills yesterday morning, said Marcoux.

Edgar Whitney was taken to Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington after relatives called for an ambulance. Investigators were talking to him yesterday afternoon.

Marcoux said he expected a positive identification of the body later Wednesday.

"We are operating off the common sense there is a good chance of it (being Whitney's body)," Marcoux said. "We don't have a lot of missing females."

Marcoux said investigators were still looking for links among the cases of two other missing women from the region. Marcoux and a state police detective were still planning to meet Friday with New Hampshire detectives to look for links among the cases.

"We are still going to proceed with that meeting," Marcoux said.

In February Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts student, disappeared after a single vehicle traffic accident in Haverhill, N.H., about 75 miles from Johnson. In March, Brianna Maitland of Sheldon disappeared after leaving her job in Montgomery, about 25 miles from Johnson.

Marcoux said that information gathered from relatives helped lead to the discovery of the body.

"I can tell you this really stepped up this morning after we got the call about him taking the pills," Marcoux said of Edgar Whitney.



## **The Caledonian-Record, June 4, 2004, Body Identified - Johnson Woman, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
June 4, 2004

Body Identified - Johnson Woman  
By Gary E. Lindsley

A body found Wednesday afternoon by a search team in a heavily wooded area near Johnson has been positively identified as that of a 35-year-old woman missing since May 27.

In a press release issued late Thursday afternoon, Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux stated Chief Medical Examiner Paul Morrow identified the body as Jodie Whitney, of Johnson.

Edgar Whitney, the woman's husband, was taken to Copley Hospital in Morrisville Wednesday after intentionally overdosing on pills. He was transferred to Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington.

It was reported on statewide television Thursday that if Whitney is released from the hospital today, he will most likely be arraigned in Lamoille County Court in connection with his wife's death.

According to Marcoux, it was information from family members after Whitney's suicide attempt which led to the discovery of what they believed to be Jodie's body.

She was found about 2 p.m. Wednesday well off the beaten path, deep in a wooded area within five miles the Whitneys' home.

While Marcoux was holding a press conference late Wednesday afternoon regarding Whitney's suicide attempt and the discovery of the body, Whitney was allegedly confessing to killing his wife, according to police.

Whitney notified police around 10 p.m. May 27 that his wife had not returned home. She also had not gone to work at the Stoweflake Resort in Stowe that day. He had last seen her that morning before he left for work.

Jodie's white Jeep Cherokee was found by a citizen within five miles the Whitney home May 28.

Prior to the discovery of Jodie's body, Edgar's overdose and his confession, Marcoux and Lt. Leo Bachand, state police Troop B criminal division commander, had set up a meeting for 10 a.m. today with New Hampshire State Police and FBI agents to discuss the disappearances of Jodie, 17-year-old Brianna Maitland of Sheldon, Vt., and 22-year-old Maura Murray of Hanson, Mass.

The meeting has been postponed until 10 a.m. Thursday.

Murray, a University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student, has been missing since she was involved in a minor one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H. Feb. 9.

Maitland has been missing since she clocked out of work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery, Vt. late the night of March 19.

Her car was discovered early the next morning partially ensconced in an abandoned building about a mile from the inn.

**Vermont State Police/ New Hampshire State Police Press Release, June 8, 2004 (Part 1)**

VERMONT STATE POLICE  
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE  
PRESS RELEASE

CASE #: 04A201455

Date: Tuesday June 8, 2004

Location: St. Albans Vermont

Incident/Violation: Brianna Maitland

Missing Person Investigation Montgomery Vermont

Maura Murray Missing Person Investigation

Haverhill New Hampshire

**MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW MEETING**

For the better part of this day the Vermont State Police, the New Hampshire State Police, and the FBI, met at the VSP Barracks in St. Albans Vermont to continue to review the Brianna Maitland and Maura Murray Missing Person cases. This is a cooperative effort between these law enforcement agencies that has been ongoing since the beginning of these investigations. The lead investigative agencies; the New Hampshire State Police and the Vermont State Police, have concluded at this time that there is no connection between these cases. It is also important to reiterate that there is also no connection whatsoever between these Missing Person cases and the Whitney Homicide case from last week in Lamoille County. "There is no serial killer on the loose in the area" stated Captain Bruce W. Lang, Chief Criminal Investigator of the VSPs' Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

The Captains' remarks were in reference to apparent speculation in the area media recently with regard to the three cases.

Special Agent D.J. Corbet of the Burlington Vermont office of the FBI participated in the joint agency meeting.

SA Corbet reiterated that the FBI has been involved with both missing person investigations since the onset of each. The FBI has offered several resources and continued support to the two state police agencies heading these cases and will continue to do so in the future.

The State Police in both Vermont and New Hampshire continue to seek the public's help in providing factual information and tips relevant to either the Maitland or Murray cases as the efforts continue to locate these missing women.

A synopsis of the 3-month investigation into the disappearance of Brianna Maitland is as follows: Lt. Thomas M. Nelson, BCI Commander for A Troop North at St. Albans released the following synopsis of the investigative actions taken in the Maitland case to date:

Brianna Maitland Age 17 (DOB 10-08-86) of Franklin Vermont was last seen at her place of employment, the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery Vermont on March 19, 2004. Brianna left work in her vehicle at 23:20 hours (11:20 PM) on that date. Maitland's car was found the next day (20th) with its back end connected to, after having struck, an abandoned farmhouse on Rte #118, a short distance from work. Bruce and Kellie Maitland reported Brianna as a missing person on March 23rd. Brianna had left high school and previously been reported as a runaway by her father in 2003. Before disappearing on the 19th she had not been living with her parents for several months, living with friends and recently staying with one of them at that friend's house in Sheldon, VT. The investigation has shown that Brianna Maitland had made unhealthy life style choices in her life prior to her disappearance. Specifically she had become involved in the world of illegal drugs in the area where she lived. Her association with people involved in this activity is an area of focus for the investigators.

Shortly after the Bureau of Criminal Investigation division became involved with this case on the 25th, it has been handled with a major case emphasis such as that given to homicides and other major criminal incidents.

Numerous law enforcement agencies and resources have been utilized in the investigation, such as those in the following list:

#### SUBJECT INTERVIEWS:

61 individuals have been interviewed, some of them multiple times.

#### COURT ORDERED SEARCHES / ACTIONS:

1 search warrant has been conducted at the residence of a person known to Brianna and believed involved in illegal drugs. This resulted in the confiscation of 4.5 grams of crack, and the identification of 2 firearms. One subject has been ordered into District Court to face criminal charges and this case is pending.

6 subpoenas for telephone records have been requested through Vermont District Court for records. The records to be reviewed for possible leads.

7 persons who know Brianna Maitland were subpoenaed to testify under oath before a Vermont District Court Judge.

**FORENSIC SCIENCE & EVIDENCE GATHERING**· The Vermont Forensic Laboratory Crime Scene response team has conducted a Forensic analysis on the Maitland vehicle.

The FBI Behavioral Sciences Unit has been consulted.

II. An overview of the Law Enforcement Agencies Involved in the Brianna Maitland Missing Person Investigation

FBI

- i. Behavioral Sciences Unit Quantico
- ii. VICAP
- iii. Burlington Field Office

New Hampshire State Police

- i. The lead and supervising detectives on the Maura Murray missing person case have been consulted.

New York City Police Department

- i. VICE unit
- ii. 22nd Precinct Queens
- iii. Police Headquarters

Montreal Police

Lawrence Ma. Police Department

Mass. State Police Northampton

U.S. Marshals Service

U.S. Attorney's Office Burlington

DEA

Burlington Police Department

Vermont State Police

- i. Uniform division St. Albans Barracks
- ii. Intelligence Unit
- iii. Search and Rescue Team
- iv. K-9 unit
- v. Scuba Team
- vi. Polygraph Unit
- vii. Vermont Criminal Information Center
- viii. Northern Vermont Drug Task Force
- ix. Vermont Forensic Laboratory

Vermont Department of Corrections - Probation and Parole

- i. St. Albans office
  - ii. Burlington office
  - iii. Newport Office
- III. Other Agencies contacted or otherwise utilized in the case:

Vermont Social & Rehabilitative Services Department

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children· National Center for Missing Adults· National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

Vermont Air National Guard (Helicopter)

Canadian Missing Children's Network

Champlain Valley Crime Stoppers

Klaas Kids Organization

Americas Most Wanted Website

Carole Sund/Carrington Memorial Award Foundation

Anyone with information on the Brianna Maitland Missing Person case is urged to contact either Vermont State Police Detective Sergeant Glynn or Detective Lieutenant Nelson at the St. Albans Barracks #802-524-5993.

**Vermont State Police/ New Hampshire State Police Press Release, June 8, 2004 (Part 2)**

VERMONT STATE POLICE  
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE  
PRESS RELEASE

CASE #: 04A201455

Date: Tuesday June 8, 2004

Location: St. Albans Vermont

Incident/Violation: Brianna Maitland

Missing Person Investigation Montgomery Vermont

Maura Murray Missing Person Investigation

Haverhill New Hampshire

**MULTI-AGENCY CASE REVIEW MEETING**

CASE #: 04A201455

Date: Tuesday June 8, 2004

Lt. John Scarinza is the "F" Troop Commander of the New Hampshire State Police. He and Detective Sgt. Bob Bruno also of Troop "F", participated in the meeting. Lt. John Scarinza released the following synopsis of the Maura Murray Missing Person Investigation conducted by his department:

Maura Murray Missing Person Investigation  
St Albans, Vermont  
June 8, 2004

On Monday, February 9th at approx 7:30 pm, Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts College Student was involved in a single vehicle accident on Rt. 112 in the town of Haverhill, NH. When Haverhill Police arrived at the scene approx 8-10 minutes later they found the vehicle locked with no one around.

To date an extensive investigation has been conducted into the disappearance of Maura Murray. The following information has been learned.

On Saturday Feb 7th Maura spent the evening out with her father and friends at a local brew pub. Later that evening, in the early morning hours of Sunday the 8th of February, Maura was involved in a single vehicle accident in the town of Hadley, Mass. She was driving her fathers' new car at the

time of the accident, and struck a set of guardrails causing approx 10,000 dollars damage to the vehicle.

By Monday morning, Feb. 9th Maura had packed up all her belongings in her dorm room at U-Mass, putting everything neatly in boxes and putting all the boxes on her bed along with a personal note she had recently received from her boyfriend. She went on the Internet and looked up directions and overnight accommodations in the Bartlett, NH area as well as Burlington, VT area. She withdrew most of her money from her personal bank account. She sent e-mails to her supervisor at work as well as a college professor saying she would be absent from work and school for a week due to a death in the family.

There was no death in the family.

She did not tell her family, her friends or her classmates that she was planning to leave school for the week.

She left Massachusetts at approx. 4:30 PM in the afternoon of February 9th, 2004.

At approx. 7:30 pm Maura was involved in a single vehicle accident on Rt. 112 in the town of Haverhill, NH. This accident was the second accident she had had in three days. The vehicle she was driving at the time of her second accident was also her father's car, one that he had loaned to her to use while at school.

Very shortly after the accident had occurred, a passerby stopped and offered assistance. Maura seemed to be uninjured, and refused assistance, and stated that she had called Triple-A to come tow the vehicle. In fact there was no cell phone coverage in that area and Triple-A was never called.

When the passerby stated that he was going to call local law enforcement to come and assist, Maura pleaded with him not to call the police.

Investigators are also aware of some additional stresses that were occurring in Maura's life at the time of these events to include a difficult long distance relationship with her boyfriend in Oklahoma.

At the accident scene in Haverhill, there were no signs of any struggle, or any other evidence, which would indicate that a crime had been committed. At the time of Maura's disappearance, there was approx. 2½ feet of snow on the ground. Searchers were able to easily distinguish deer and moose tracks in the area, and the snow cover greatly assisted the searchers in eliminating possible areas where Maura could have traveled off of the main roads in the area. The snow greatly aided the search from the air, also due to the fact that any person who would have wandered off the road and into the woods would have left a trail that would readily be seen from the air.

To date, there have been 5 air searches with the New Hampshire State Police Helicopter.

There have been searches with Bloodhounds or K-9 search and rescue teams in the area surrounding the accident site on at least 4 separate occasions.



The area in and around the accident scene has been extensively searched on the ground. This effort has been co-coordinated by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, which is charged with all search and rescue efforts in New Hampshire.

State, local and Federal law enforcement agencies have been involved in the investigation into the disappearance of Maura Murray.

Investigators believe that Maura was headed for an unknown destination and may have accepted a ride in order to continue to that location.

Investigators are hoping to speak with anyone who may have given Maura a ride sometime after 7:30 pm on Feb 9th in or around the Haverhill, NH area. Also, if anyone has any personal knowledge of why Maura was leaving school, where she was headed, or what her intended destination was, this information would be extremely helpful to assist investigators in locating Maura.

Based upon the evidence gathered to date, New Hampshire State Police investigators strongly feel that the disappearance of Maura Murray does not have a common link with the investigation into the disappearance of Brianna Maitland in Vermont.

We continue however to work with our counterparts in the Vermont State Police, and local and federal law enforcement in our effort to locate both of these missing young women.

Anyone with information regarding the disappearance of Maura Murray is urged to contact the New Hampshire State Police at #603-846-3333.

Auth: Lt. John K. Scarinza, Commander, Troop F

**The Caldedonian-Record, June 9, 2004, Parent Accuses Police Of Character Assassination - Vermont, N.H. Officers Deny Link Between Missing Women, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caldedonian-Record  
Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Parent Accuses Police Of Character Assassination  
Vermont, N.H. Officers Deny Link Between Missing Women  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Law enforcement authorities from Vermont and New Hampshire, after a daylong meeting with the FBI Tuesday, say there is no connection between the disappearances of a 17-year-old Vermont woman and 22-year-old University of Massachusetts nursing student.

Vermont State Police and New Hampshire State Police met with Burlington, Vt. FBI agent D.J. Corbet in St. Albans.

In a press release issued after the meeting, state police from Vermont and New Hampshire emphatically said there is no connection between the disappearances of Brianna Maitland of Sheldon, Vt., and Maura Murray of Hanson, Mass.

Capt. Bruce W. Lang, chief of Vermont's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, said there is no serial killer on the loose as has been speculated in the media.

In fact, they said Maitland had made several bad life choices before she disappeared, and at one point, had been a runaway.

Investigators also said Murray had nearly cleaned out her bank account, packed up her belongings in her dorm room at UMass Amherst, and made off for destinations unknown.

"How can you say there is not a connection?" asked Bruce Maitland, Brianna's father. "They don't have any evidence saying they aren't connected. It's a flat-out lie.

"I think it's almost character assassination of the victims. They said Maura wanted to disappear. Brianna, they said she chose an unhealthy life choice."

He believes state police in both states have spent less time on the two cases than trying to shut up the parents and others. "I am disheartened," Maitland said.

Talking to some of the investigators after the meeting and a press conference, he said he had the distinct impression the investigations are done.

"They said they were tired of wasting their time on leads (which lead to nowhere)," Maitland said. "They want to say it's the girls' own fault."

Brianna has not been seen since she clocked out of work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery at 11:20 p.m. March 19.

Her car was found early the next morning partially ensconced in an abandoned building about a mile from the inn.

Murray has not been seen since she disappeared after being involved in a minor one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., the night of Feb. 9.

According to Lt. Thomas M. Nelson, Vermont BCI commander for Troop A North, Brianna had previously been reported as missing by her father in 2003.

In the joint press release, Nelson also said a VSP investigation had revealed Brianna had made unhealthy lifestyle choices in her life prior to her disappearance.

"Specifically, she had become involved in the world of illegal drugs in the area where she lived," he said. "Her association with people involved in this activity is an area of focus for the investigators." She was living with a friend in Sheldon at the time of her disappearance.

New Hampshire State Police Troop F Commander Lt. John Scarinza described Maura as having had a difficult long-distance relationship with her boyfriend, Billy Rausch, who is stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

Scarinza also said the day before she disappeared, she had had an accident with her father's brand-new car in Hadley, Mass. The accident, he said, caused \$10,000 worth of damage to Fred Murray's car.

The next day she packed up all her belongings in her dorm room and headed off to a destination unknown. Later that day, she had a second car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., and disappeared before police arrived.

"She withdrew most of her money from her personal bank account," Scarinza said in the press release. "She sent e-mails to her supervisor at work as well as a college professor saying she would be absent from work and school for a week due to a death in the family."

"There was no death in the family," he continued. "She did not tell her family, her friends or her classmates that she was planning to leave for the week. Investigators believe that Maura was headed for an unknown destination and may have accepted a ride in order to continue to that location."

Maura's father, in reaction to Scarinza's statements, said, "As far as Scarinza's amateur psychology goes, it does not matter why Maura left. Something happened.

"They do not want the FBI (fully involved) because it would be like calling the police on itself. They botched the case from the start."

Murray said Troop F first treated his daughter as a missing runaway. Then, they said she had frozen to death.

Their next theory, according to Murray, was Maura had committed suicide. "Again, if it was suicide, they would have to look for her," he said.

If it was a suicide, then the state police would not have to look for a bad guy, Murray said. "If there is a bad guy, then the state police have not been able to do the job and catch the bad guy," he said.

Regarding his daughter's relationship with Rausch, Murray said it was a strong, loving, very, very good relationship.

"The accident with my car? It was not a big deal," he said. "My insurance covered it. They are saying anything to avoid searching for a bad guy. It's just a smokescreen.

"They have to get the job done. They should be made to accept (the FBI's help). If you blame the victims, it doesn't matter. Something still happened to these girls. Someone harmed them. It's a crime."

**St. Albans Messenger, June 10, 2004, Authorities shed new light on missing women's lives,  
Leon Thompson**

St. Albans Messenger  
June 10, 2004

Authorities shed new light on missing women's lives  
By Leon Thompson

St. Albans Town - Police concluded Tuesday there is no connection in the mysterious disappearances of Brianna Maitland, 17, of Franklin, and Maura Murray, 21, of New Hampshire.

Investigators did say, however, that Maitland had strong ties to the drug community, and that Murray probably ran away.

For four hours yesterday, the Vermont State Police (VSP), New Hampshire State Police and FBI met at the VSP barracks in St. Albans before addressing the media about the cases. Their assessment: The Maitland and Murray cases are unrelated.

**The Caledonian-Record, June 10, 2004, Letters To Editor - Help bring Bri home, By Laurie Gilman**

The Caledonian-Record  
June 10, 2004

Letters To Editor - Help bring Bri home  
By Laurie Gilman

To the Editor:

I was so glad to see the article about Brianna's case in your paper. I do not live in Vermont but will be a resident of Victory in a few years. I read your paper online every day which is how I became aware of the disappearances of Brianna Maitland and Maura Murray.

I have been following her case on her family's Web site, [www.bringbrihome.org](http://www.bringbrihome.org), and I have downloaded both Brianna and Maura's missing posters and will be leaving them at rest stops and with truck drivers as I travel from Maryland to Vermont the first of June.

It is hard to help from so far away but I have written letters and e-mails, etc., to do what I can.

If there are others in Vermont or nearby that want to help, I suggest they go to the Web site for downloads of the missing girls' posters, the petitions and information on the upcoming garage sale. Brianna's family and the local people that are helping can use anything anyone can offer in the way of assistance.

Please check it out and do what you can to help them bring Bri home.

Laurie Gilman

Sunderland, Md.

**The Caledonian-Record, June 10, 2004, Parents Of Missing Vermont Teen Heartened By Dubie Meeting, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
June 10, 2004

Parents Of Missing Vermont Teen Heartened By Dubie Meeting  
By Gary E. Lindsley

The parents of a missing 17-year-old Sheldon woman are feeling a bit more optimistic they will be receiving help from law enforcement authorities after meeting with Vermont Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, Wednesday.

Kellie and Bruce Maitland of Franklin met with Dubie and Public Safety Commissioner Kerry Sleeper at the Williston state police barracks to talk about their daughter Brianna, who has been missing since she clocked out of work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery 11:20 p.m. March 19.

Kellie said she left the two-hour meeting with guarded optimism.

Dubie and Sleeper told the Maitlands they will ensure Brianna's disappearance will gain exposure with the national media, according to Bruce Maitland.

Both Maitlands, after Tuesday's press conference in which state police said at one point Brianna had been a runaway and had become involved in the world of illegal drugs, were surprised by the tenor of their meeting with Dubie and Sleeper - especially Dubie.

"They are starting to give an honest appraisal of what the case really is," Bruce said. "It's either drug-related or she has been killed. They have dropped the runaway (listing)."

Although he is glad authorities will drop the runaway characterization and start treating the case as being criminal, he cannot miss the reality of what that means.

"It's kind of disheartening," Bruce said, "because every night we pray she is a runaway."

If she was a runaway, the Maitlands believe they would have a better chance of finding their daughter unharmed.

Wednesday was a change for Bruce after having heard what authorities said about his daughter, and Maura Murray on Tuesday. Murray is the 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student who hasn't been seen since she disappeared after having a minor one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., the night of Feb. 9.

Tuesday, state police from New Hampshire and Vermont said there wasn't any connection between the disappearances of Brianna and Maura.

They also said they weren't going to waste any more time on any more worthless leads.

"I think it's almost character assassination of the victims," Bruce had said on Tuesday. "They said Maura wanted to disappear. Brianna, they said she chose an unhealthy life choice."

He said Wednesday's meeting with Dubie and Sleeper was a complete turnaround, just the opposite, from Tuesday's press conference.

"The lieutenant governor was super," Bruce said. "We went into the meeting that it was a setup. But, the lieutenant governor really wants to do what's in his power to help us out."

The Maitlands were assured by Dubie the case was of a very high priority.

"When the lieutenant governor called us a couple of days ago, I hoped he was sincere," he said.



## **The Caledonian-Record, June 16, 2004, State Police Discard Runaway Theory - Drugs May Be Connection To Disappearance By Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
June 16, 2004

State Police Discard Runaway Theory - Drugs May Be Connection To Disappearance  
By Gary E. Lindsley

The passing of seven days has resulted in a huge turnaround in the way Vermont State Police are treating the disappearance of Brianna Maitland.

Maitland, 17, was last seen at about 11:20 p.m. March 19 when she clocked out of work at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery.

VSP had originally said Maitland was a runaway and had run away in the past. During a press conference June 8, they said they were tired of wasting time tracking down worthless leads.

They said Maitland had made some bad life choices which may have led to her disappearance.

The next day, June 9, Bruce and Kellie Maitland, Brianna's parents, met with Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie and Public Safety Commissioner Kerry Sleeper at the Williston state police barracks.

The Maitlands came away from that meeting with guarded optimism. They said Dubie said he was treating Brianna's disappearance as a serious case and would do what he could to help.

Tuesday, another press conference was held.

This time, the state police said they and the Maitlands were united in their request for factual information which will lead to finding Brianna.

They also acknowledged that it is not a case of a teenager running away.

"With each day that passes without a solid trace of information on her whereabouts, it becomes more apparent that she may have been the victim of a violent crime," the VSP said in a press release.

"Brianna had been living away from home and was socializing with community members involved in the use of illegal drugs," the press release continues. "Investigators with the Vermont State Police are interested in solid fruitful information that may assist in furthering this investigation."

While the Maitlands have said all along they believed their daughter was the victim of a crime, they do not necessarily agree with the VSP position Brianna had been socializing with drug-related people.

They have said she had been turning her life around. She was working two jobs and was living with a friend in Sheldon.

**Brianna was driving home to Sheldon after leaving the Black Lantern when something went wrong.**

Her green 1985 four-door Oldsmobile 88 was found early the morning of March 20 partially embedded in an abandoned barn off of Route 118 at the Dutchburn Farm. The car was about a mile from the Black Lantern.

"It is just kind of strange," said Bruce Maitland, who attended Tuesday's press conference, referring to the VSP's change regarding Brianna's disappearance. "I feel, in some ways, this is a major step. They have admitted she may have been a victim of a serious crime and was not a runaway."

Regarding VSP's position Brianna had had recent contacts with people connected to drugs prior to her disappearance, he said state police told him two people had said Brianna had had a drug debt.

However, that doesn't mesh with what Brianna's friends have been telling the Maitlands.

"I am a little discouraged they are bringing up the drug stuff," he said. "Everything I have gotten from her friends doesn't indicate that. No one has seen her high."

The state police, according to Bruce Maitland, are offering to make deals, even with people connected to drugs.

"They are desperate for really good information because I don't think they have any," he said.

Unlike the case of 22-year-old Maura Murray, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student who has been missing since she was involved in a minor one-car accident the night of Feb. 9 on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., state police in Vermont have enlisted the help of the FBI.

They have received help from the FBI's Burlington office as well as the agency's Behavioral Science Unit in Quantico, Va. They also have been in contact with the U.S. Marshal's Office.

New Hampshire State Police have not asked the FBI to become fully involved in the Murray disappearance. They have said they have all the resources they need to work the case.

People with information about Brianna's disappearance should contact VSP at 802-524-5993 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-427-8477.

People with information about Maura Murray should call New Hampshire State Police at 603-845-3333 or 603-271-3636.

**The Caledonian-Record, June 23, 2004, Letters To Editor - Reservations about officers' attitudes, Helena Murray**

The Caledonian-Record  
June 23, 2004

Letters To Editor - Reservations about officers' attitudes  
By Helena Murray

To the Editor:

Since February, I have been reading the articles on the disappearance of Maura Murray. I believe that The Caledonian-Record has covered the story extremely fairly. I do, however, have serious reservations about the approach the various police agencies have taken and their apparent attitude about Maura's disappearance.

I took particular note of some comments that have been made ... "They also said they weren't going to waste any more time on any more worthless leads."

This would seem to discourage anybody from reporting anything. I would ask the law enforcement agencies this question: "How do you know a lead is worthless until you investigate?"

"I think it's almost character assassination of the victims," Bruce had said on Tuesday. "They said Maura wanted to disappear. Brianna, they said she chose an unhealthy life choice."

Mr. Maitland is absolutely correct in this statement, but it doesn't go far enough. Whatever Brianna and/or Maura may or may not have done, why would the law enforcement agencies punish the families.

As to one other comment: "Capt. Bruce W. Lang, chief of Vermont's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, said there is no serial killer on the loose as has been speculated in the media," I would ask whether the person involved in the murders in the later '80s was ever caught. If not, then isn't he probably still on the loose somewhere?

And, yes, as you might guess I am related to Maura, although distantly.

Helena Murray

Weymouth, Mass.

**WPTZ NBC 5 Burlington, Vermont, June 28, 2004, Police After Meeting: Murray, Maitland Cases Not Connected - Maitland Family Canoes Down River Searching For Body - Police crossed state lines to meet about a pair of missing women.**

WPTZ NBC 5 Burlington, Vermont  
June 28, 2004

Police After Meeting: Murray, Maitland Cases Not Connected - Maitland Family Canoes Down River Searching For Body - Police crossed state lines to meet about a pair of missing women.

Investigators were looking for connections between the disappearances of Brianna Maitland and Maura Murray, and in the end, they said they found none.

The Maitlands took a canoe ride down the Mississquoi River.

"The last time we did this river, she was along with us in a kayak," Brianna's father Bruce Maitland said.

This time, they're searching for her body.

"If we come across something here it's not going to be good, but you just have to keep searching like that," Maitland said.

Police continue to search for leads, but to no avail.

Murray and Maitland disappeared this winter after separate but similar car accidents.

Investigators from both states met for four hours with the FBI.

Their conclusion is that there is no connection whatsoever between these cases.

In fact, they still find no evidence of foul play in either case, but offer a plea from both police and parents for any information that can help.

They said there are probably some people reluctant to bring information to them because of drug activity or criminal past.

"We don't care about that," one officer said. "We're trying to locate both of these women."

## **The Caledonian-Record, July 1, 2004, Lieutenant Says Major Crimes Involved Since Beginning - Police Secure Murray Items For Evidence, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
Thursday, July 1, 2004

Lieutenant Says Major Crimes Involved Since Beginning  
Police Secure Murray Items For Evidence

By Gary E. Lindsley

State police say they have secured items from a missing 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student as possible evidence.

Lt. John Scarinza, commander of New Hampshire State Police Troop F, says the items are being held, possibly for further investigation.

However, Scarinza also says it's not true the state police Major Crimes Unit is only now getting involved in the Maura Murray case.

Murray has been missing since she was involved in a minor one-car crash on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., about a mile east of Swiftwater Feb. 9. She has not been seen since the night of the accident.

He said the Major Crimes Unit, and specifically, Sgt. Charles West, has been involved in the Murray disappearance since three days after she disappeared.

Scarinza also said detectives from Troop F and the Major Crimes Unit have been used during the missing person's investigation.

He was emphatic that the items from Murray's car are not only now being looked at. "The items have already been gone through once," Scarinza said.

When asked whether any of the items, including clothing and books, had been analyzed for forensic evidence in the beginning of the investigation, he said, "You don't just send a bag of stuff down there."

However, he did say the items in Murray's black 1996 Saturn were inventoried by Haverhill police officers during the first week of the investigation back in February. In addition to diamond jewelry, books, clothing and some alcohol found in the vehicle after the accident, some items were missing.

"She had a (black) backpack when she left Massachusetts," Scarinza said. "We have not been able to locate the backpack in the car or her (dorm) room. That was the pack she used at school."

Scarinza also said when Murray left the Amherst campus, she had with her a box of wine, and bottles of vodka, Kahlua and Bailey's Irish Cream. The box of wine, of which most had been spilled, was found in the car. But some of the other bottles were not found.

Also found in the car, specifically on the back seat, was a book written by Nicholas Howe, titled, "Not Without Peril." Scarinza said the book is about tragedies regarding search and rescues in the White Mountains.

"Mrs. (Sharon) Rausch tells me that is Maura's favorite book," he said. "What does that mean? I don't know." Haverhill police, in a press release issued two days after Murray's disappearance, said she possibly was suicidal.

Because it has been nearly five months since the night Murray disappeared, and because state police believe there is not a lot to look for, Scarinza said it's appropriate to have the items in the car at the time of the accident returned to investigators so they can be held as possible evidence.

"I don't know what we will do with them," he said. "We want to have all the items if we need them. At this point, we are holding them for evidence." That includes Nicholas Howe's book.

"For instance," Scarinza said, "is there something significant about that book? I don't know."

If there is something highlighted in the book which may help with the investigation, they will have the book readily available.

## **The New Hampshire Union Leader, July 2, 2004, Missing woman had books, liquor in car**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
July 2, 2004

Missing woman had books, liquor in car

HAVERHILL (AP) -- One of the items found in the car of a missing Massachusetts student is a book on White Mountain tragedies, "Not Without Peril."

A family friend said the book, written by Nicholas Howe, is Maura Murray's favorite, State Police Lt. John Scarinza said. "What does that mean? I don't know."

Murray, 22, a University of Massachusetts nursing student, has been missing since she was involved in a minor one-car crash on Route 112 in Haverhill the night of Feb. 9.

Murray escaped serious injury and asked a resident who came by not to call police. He did anyway, but by the time they arrived, she had vanished, leaving her car and belongings behind.

Scarinza said the items in Murray's black 1996 Saturn were inventoried by Haverhill police officers during the first week of the investigation back in February.

In addition to "Not Without Peril" and other books, diamond jewelry, clothing and some alcohol were found in the car.

Some items were missing. "She had a (black) backpack when she left Massachusetts," Scarinza said. "We have not been able to locate the backpack in the car or her (dorm) room. That was the pack she used at school."

Scarinza also said when Murray left Massachusetts, she had with her a box of wine and bottles of vodka, Kahlua and Bailey's Irish Cream.

The box of wine, most of which had spilled, was found in the car. Some of the other bottles were not found.

Murray had said his daughter might have been distraught because she had another accident two days earlier. She also apparently planned to get away because she lied to professors about a death in the family and said she would be gone from class for the week, then packed her belongings as if she was moving out.

However, Murray believes she might have been the victim of foul play, although police said there is no evidence pointing in that direction.

**The Caledonian Record, July 3, 2004, Maura Murray Family, Friends Say State Police Lied, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian Record  
Saturday, July 3, 2004

Maura Murray Family, Friends Say State Police Lied  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Family and friends of a missing 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student say New Hampshire State Police are misinforming the public.

"You don't try to provide spin unless you are trying to cover something up," said Sharon Rausch, mother of Maura Murray's boyfriend, Billy Rausch of Fort Sill, Okla.

Murray has not been seen since she was involved in a minor one-car accident Feb. 9 on dark, and curvy Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H.

"They are a bunch of liars," Rausch said. "I am at the point the only people I am worried about offending are Billy and Fred."

Fred is Fred Murray, Maura's father.

Murray and Rausch are upset about comments made this week by New Hampshire State Police Troop F commander Lt. John Scarinza.

Scarinza pointed to a book by Nicholas Howe, "Not Without Peril," as a possible source of why Maura disappeared. The book was among items found in her car.

In the book, there are stories about tragedies and rescues in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, areas in which Maura and her father had hiked.

Scarinza has said Murray told police his daughter was suicidal.

However, the first mention of Maura being suicidal was in a press release issued by Haverhill Police Chief Jeff Williams two days after Maura's car accident and disappearance.

Murray says he never told police his daughter was suicidal.

"I want to set the record straight," he said. "Scarinza is using (Howe's book) to reinforce his suicide theory. It's nothing like that.

"Maura liked the book," he said. "She was making her way through it. The reason she liked the book was because she likes several different areas in the White Mountains. There are all kinds of landmarks. That's all it was."

Although he is upset about Scarinza's comments, Murray isn't surprised.



"If he goes with the suicide theory, that means nothing happened on his turf and during his watch," Murray said. "However, when you have a bad guy (involved), it's in (Scaranza's) back yard and he can't solve it."

"He's pushing it hard," he continued. "He's to the point he's making things up."

Rausch, equally upset with Scaranza's comments, says, "It's pretty pathetic that 41/2 months later, the state police want to secure the evidence."

She says it's comparable to the state police not searching for Maura until 36 hours after she disappeared.

"They never did a forensics study," Rausch said. "And Lt. Scaranza is providing a lot of misinformation to the public - including that she ran away to a new life; she froze to death; she committed suicide."

"When I lay awake at night," she continued, "I wonder how well Lt. Scaranza is sleeping."

And Rausch is adamant when she says she never told Scaranza about "Not Without Peril."

"That angers me because this is just another thing that is a lie," she said.

"Why didn't he ask me what that meant?"

Rausch was referring to Maura saying the book was her favorite.

"She told me (the White Mountains are) a favorite place she likes to go," she said, adding Maura told her, "And most of all it's my favorite place on earth."

Scaranza could not be reached for comment Friday afternoon."

**The Patriot Ledger, July 5, 2004, Cop comments anger missing Hanson woman's mother:  
Laurie Murray rejects suicide, runaway theories, Dan DeLeo**

The Patriot Ledger  
July 5, 2004

Cop comments anger missing Hanson woman's mother: Laurie Murray rejects suicide, runaway theories  
By Dan DeLeo

Maura Murray's boyfriend and her mother say they are angry that police are suggesting that the young woman who disappeared five months ago killed herself or ran away.

The 22-year-old nursing student from Hanson has not been seen since she was involved in a minor accident in Haverhill, N.H., on Feb. 9.

"She would never run away and she would never commit suicide," her mother, Laurie Murray of Hanson, said yesterday.

Murray said she believes her daughter was abducted.

Maura Murray's boyfriend, Army Lt. William Rausch of Weymouth, said he told police from the beginning of the investigation that he does not believe she would take her own life.

"In no way shape or form did I say that was the most likely explanation. They should be focusing on finding Maura," said Rausch, who is stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.

Rausch complained that local police did not bring FBI officials onto the case once they ran out of leads.

"It's been disheartening to see the many mistakes they've made," he said.

Murray's family was outraged last week when New Hampshire State Police Lt. John Scarinza linked the discovery of a book about tragedies in the White Mountains to the possibility that Murray committed suicide.

The book, "Not Without Peril," was found in Murray's abandoned car, along with diamond jewelry, clothing and alcohol.

In an interview last week, Scarinza said, "What does that mean? I don't know."

Laurie Murray said the book is one of her daughter's favorites. She said Maura and her father met the author, Nicholas Howe, while hiking in the region.

Murray took offense at Scarinza's comments.

“What he is saying on the news is slanderous and it is interfering with the search for her,” she said.  
“It's upsetting the whole family more than we already are.”

Scarinza could not be reached for comment.

**The Caledonian-Record, July 10, 2004, Woman Missing Since July 5, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
July 10, 2004

Woman Missing Since July 5  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Burlington Police are seeking the public's help in locating 26-year-old Ligia Rae Collins, who disappeared July 5. Her disappearance is being treated as suspicious.

Collins was last seen by her live-in boyfriend around midnight July 4, according to Detective Cpl. Shawn Burke.

Police were told Collins was headed to a male friend's residence in Burlington. She never arrived. Burke said her boyfriend reported her missing about 9 p.m. on Monday.

Collins is a biracial female of Korean descent, according to Burlington police. She is 5-feet, 4-inches tall and weighs between 180 and 200 pounds. She has a nose ring and long, dark blond hair.

Collins' car, a blue 1996 Ford Escort station wagon bearing Vermont plates DLD 818, is also missing. She left behind two small children who are staying with family members, as well as personal belongings. Police are following up on several leads, which include conducting field interviews and physical searches of locations where Collins may have been.

Burlington Police are also talking to other police agencies about two other missing women. "We are talking to state police about similarities," Burke said. "We are still in the infancy stage of the investigation."

Friday marked the fifth month since a 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student, Maura Murray, disappeared after she was involved in a minor one-car accident on rural Route 112 in the town of Haverhill, N.H., about one mile east of Swiftwater the night of Feb. 9.

Thirty-nine days later, 17-year-old Brianna Maitland of Sheldon, Vt., disappeared after clocking out of work at 11:20 p.m. at the Black Lantern Inn in Montgomery. Her car was found a mile from the inn early the next morning, March 20, partially ensconced in an abandoned barn.

Information about Collins' disappearance has been placed in the National Crime Information Center data base.

Anyone with information about Collins' disappearance is asked to contact the Burlington Police Department at 802-658-2714 or Crime Stoppers at 802-864-6666.

**The Patriot Ledger, July 13, 2004, New search begins for Hanson student, Patriot Ledger staff**

The Patriot Ledger  
July 13, 2004

New search begins for Hanson student  
By Patriot Ledger staff

New Hampshire State Police today combed an area where a 22-year-old nursing student from Hanson was last seen.

About 60 troopers searched the area in Haverhill, N.H., where Maura Murray was involved in a minor automobile accident on Feb. 9.

A man answering the phone at State Police headquarters in Twin Mountain, N.H., said the effort was being made "just to see if they could pick up anything new."

The man, who did not identify himself, said that the search began this morning and was expected to continue until late this afternoon.

Murray, a nursing student at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, packed up her belongings in her dorm room on Feb. 9, loaded up her car and abruptly left school.

She crashed her car in Haverhill, N.H., that night, and refused help from a passing motorist. Ten minutes later, police arrived, but Murray was gone.

Police have had few leads in their investigation, and Murray's family has grown increasingly frustrated about the lack of progress toward finding her.

## **WCAX, July 13, 2004**

WCAX

July 13, 2004

Search for Missing Girl Intensifies  
Woodsville, New Hampshire

College student Maura Murray was last seen along Route 112 in February. Murray had just crashed her car on this corner in Haverhill, New Hampshire.

"What is clear it was her intention to leave school at the time she drove and ended up in Haverhill, New Hampshire. She had packed all her belongings, put them in boxes," said Lt. John Scarinza who is heading up the investigation for the New Hampshire State Police. The rest is a real mystery.

Authorities are searching for any clues that may lead to Murray's whereabouts. Ninety people in five teams fanned out over a one mile radius from the crash site on Tuesday.

"We have them going through drainages..anything that encompasses within that one mile radius," said Lt. Todd Bogardus of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

Authorities say there is no one thing that led them to search the area again, but they are looking for items Murray had with her when she left Massachusetts that wintry night. One was a backpack.

"They were smaller type items that maybe if they got dropped on the side of the road or thrown over a snow bank, you could have missed them at the time of the searches when there was snow on the ground," Lt. Scarinza told reporters.

Murray's car was searched at the time of the crash. Police say they found alcohol inside and outside the vehicle.

"There were indications inside the vehicle, specifically we found what we believe to be red wine, spilt on the driver's door, on the headliner and front seat of the vehicle and we found a container that we believe was holding red wine immediately outside the vehicle on the ground," said Haverhill Police Chief Jeff Williams.

Relations between the Murray family and authorities have been tense at times. Relatives have questioned whether police have done enough to find her.

"I understand that it has to be very frustrating for the family and we are doing everything we can to bring this to a conclusion for them," said Lt. Scarinza.

Tuesday's search did not turn up anything substantial. For now there is no closure, just a mystery.

**The Caledonian-Record, July 14, 2004, Another Search For Maura Murray Turns Up Little - Missing Since Feb. 9, Lorna Colquhoun**

The Caledonian-Record  
July 14, 2004

Another Search For Maura Murray Turns Up Little - Missing Since Feb. 9  
By Lorna Colquhoun

HAVERHILL, NH - Nearly 100 searchers from across New Hampshire combed a one-mile radius in Swiftwater, N.H., Tuesday, in search of clues that could shed light into the perplexing mystery of what happened to Maura Murray.

## **The New Hampshire Union Leader, July 14, 2004, Searchers again look for clues in Murray case, Lorna Colquhoun**

The New Hampshire Union Leader  
July 14, 2004

Searchers again look for clues in Murray case  
By Lorna Colquhoun

HAVERHILL -- Search teams fanned out through fields, woods and drainage ditches yesterday on another search of the area where a Massachusetts woman was last seen more than five months ago.

Nearly 100 people, including 60 state troopers from as far away as Exeter, conservation officers, and volunteers from search-and-rescue organizations, spent the day on line searches, painstakingly looking for any clue that would shed new light on the disappearance of Maura Murray.

The 22-year-old nursing student has not been seen since she had a minor accident with her father's car on Route 112 near the Weathered Barn. Murray disappeared minutes before Haverhill police responded that evening to a call about the accident.

Investigators have not had any breaks in the case since that cold night in February.

This was the fourth search of the area, and teams yesterday spread out to cover a mile radius of the accident.

The first searches were conducted while there was snow on the ground, and teams found no tracks leading from the road into the woods or nearby Wild Ammonoosuc River.

Throughout yesterday, state police detectives could be seen removing materials from areas along the road.

"We've located several items, but there is nothing conclusive related to Maura or our investigation," said Fish and Game Lt. Todd Bogardus. "Nothing out of the ordinary, nothing to raise eyebrows."

Nor was there any particular reason why the search was conducted yesterday, said state police Lt. John Scarinza.

"There is no real reason," he said. "We have searched this area four times previously; the first ones were conducted when there was 2½ feet of snow on the ground. We have a 90 percent confidence level that she is not in this half-mile radius. We're just trying to eliminate as much as we can."

Bogardus said the items retrieved yesterday are what can typically be found on any roadside this time of the year and what investigators took away might not be related to the case, but they will be checked out.

Authorities are, however, still looking for one item, Scarinza said. Murray's friends said that when they last saw her in February, she was carrying a black backpack.



"There are some items that were in her possession that were not located in her car," Scarinza said. "She had a black backpack, which has not been found. If we could find it, that would be important."

At the site where Murray was last seen, a bright blue ribbon hangs, along with a picture of her and a poster offering a \$40,000 reward for information about her whereabouts.

Police won't speculate about what they think might have happened to Murray, but Scarinza said there has been no banking activity on her accounts. The few leads that have come in over the past five months have not yielded any answers. Just last week, Scarinza said, two Rochester women called investigators, after they saw an article and picture in The Union Leader, to say they had been out at a bar there and saw a woman who looked like Murray.

"That hasn't panned out," Scarinza said.

Investigators have outlined what Murray did in the last few days before she went missing.

They know that:

Four days before her disappearance, she received a phone call at work that left her so distraught, she was walked back to her dorm at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst by a supervisor.

Two days before the accident, she crashed her father's new car into guardrails along a road in Hanson, Mass.

By the morning of Feb. 9, she had packed up all her belongings in boxes and left a note for her boyfriend.

She went on the Internet to look up driving directions to Burlington, Vt., and withdrew most of the money from her bank account.

She sent an e-mail to her work supervisor and a professor saying she would be absent from school for a week due to a death in the family. Scarinza said there was no death in her family.

"The next certainty is the accident, and what happened after that is unknown," he said. There is no evidence that foul play was a factor, he said.

Investigators have spent "thousands of hours" trying to find Murray.

Anyone with information can contact state police at 846-3333.

**The Patriot Ledger, July 15, 2004, Mom: I was kept in dark about search; Not told that police were looking for missing Hanson student this week, Don Conkey**

Mom: I was kept in dark about search; Not told that police were looking for missing Hanson student this week  
By Don Conkey

HANSON - Laurie Murray is pleased that New Hampshire State Police searched again this week for clues about her daughter's disappearance.

She just wishes someone had told her about it.

"The way they are treating me is cruel, for me to find out this information secondhand through the media," Murray said.

New Hampshire State Police conducted the all-day search Tuesday in Haverhill, N.H., in the area where 22-year-old nursing student Maura Murray of Hanson was last seen in February.

New Hampshire State Police Lt. John Scarinza said yesterday the search failed to turn up anything new about Murray's disappearance.

While that news disappointed Laurie Murray, far more upsetting, she said, was the lack of communication.

Laurie Murray, who lives in Hanson, said she didn't know that a search was under way until she was called by The Patriot Ledger on Tuesday morning.

No one from New Hampshire State Police talked to her about it, she said.

"I called State Police late in the morning Tuesday and they couldn't even tell me where in New Hampshire they were searching," Murray said.

"I identified myself as Maura's mother, and the only information they said they could give me was that a search was going on," she said.

"I left my number, but nobody has called," she said.

Scarinza acknowledged that State Police did not contact Murray, but said they did speak with her ex-husband, Frederick Murray of Weymouth, on Monday.

Scarinza said State Police tried to call Frederick Murray after the search, but as of late yesterday morning they had not been able to reach him. Meanwhile, Scarinza said, Frederick Murray had been on television in New Hampshire saying he had never been contacted by police about the search. Frederick Murray could not be reached for comment.

Laurie Murray said she deserved a call. "I am the mother."

Scarinza said State Police thought the Murrays were exchanging information. "If the communication is not happening between Mr. and Mrs. Murray, we can correct that," he said.

Laurie Murray has had a testy relationship with the investigators pursuing leads in the case. Less than two weeks ago, she criticized police for suggesting that Maura may have killed herself or run away. Murray believes her daughter was abducted.

Scarinza said nearly 100 people searched Tuesday in the area where Maura Murray was involved in a minor car accident on the night of Feb. 9.

During their first search of the site more than five months ago, police found diamond jewelry, clothing and alcohol in Murray's abandoned car, along with a book about tragedies in the White Mountains.

Murray, then 21, apparently refused help from a passing motorist after the accident. Police arrived 10 minutes later, but she was gone.

She has not been heard from since.

Scarinza said that 60 troopers, as well as state fish and game officers and volunteers, were involved in the search Tuesday. Searchers fanned out in a one-mile radius from the accident scene and searched from 9 a.m. until dark.

Scarinza said the investigation into Murray's disappearance will continue.

"At this point, several thousand hours of investigation have gone into this. We continue to try and find out what happened," he said.

**The Caldeonian-Record, July 24, 2004, Father Denied Access - State, Haverhill Police Won't Release Murray Information, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caldeonian-Record  
Saturday, July 24, 2004

Father Denied Access  
State, Haverhill Police Won't Release Murray Information  
By Gary E. Lindsley

HAVERHILL NEW HAMPSHIRE - New Hampshire State Police and Haverhill police are refusing to release information regarding a February accident involving a Massachusetts woman and her subsequent disappearance.

Maura Murray, a 22-year-old University of Massachusetts at Amherst nursing student, was involved in a minor one-car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H., the night of Feb. 9.

Her father, Fred, filed Freedom of Information Act requests with state police and Haverhill police to obtain information about the accident and the investigation into Maura's disappearance. His requests were denied by both state police and Haverhill police.

Murray received a letter dated June 29 from Brian Hester, a lieutenant with the state police Special Investigation Unit.

In the letter, Hester said, "A determination has been made these files are investigative in nature, the release of requested reports, logs and data information would be a disclosure constituting an unwarranted invasion of privacy under RSA 91-A:5 IV."

"The release and disclosure at this time could interfere with an ongoing investigation," Hester continued in his letter. "See *Lodge v. Knowlton*, 118 NH 574 (1978). Therefore, your request at this time is denied."

Gary J. Wood, an attorney representing the Haverhill Police Department, used the same reasoning and court case to decline providing Murray with the information surrounding his daughter's accident and subsequent disappearance.

The *Lodge vs. Knowlton* case involved a case filed in New Hampshire Supreme Court by Bruce Lodge against Col. Harold Knowlton of the New Hampshire State Police.

Lodge had attempted to obtain an accident report regarding an accident involving a police chief while operating his cruiser.

In conclusion, the court determined the six-prong test of 5 U.S.C. 552 (B) (7) provided a good standard to effectuate the balance of interests required by RSA CH. 91-A with regard to police investigatory files.

One of the elements of the six-prong test involves invasion of privacy. The court also suggested a new hearing be held.

Hester, when contacted Friday morning, declined to comment and referred questions to David Ruhoff of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office.

Ruhoff at first said he could not make any comments in any official capacity.

He then relented when told state police said he would be the one to discuss the freedom of information act request refusal.

Ruhoff did say because it's an ongoing investigation, even the accident report cannot be released. Wood was not available for comment.

As for Murray, he does not understand why authorities won't release any information about his daughter, if her case is not being investigated as a criminal case.

State police have continually stated they consider it a missing person's case.

So, Murray does not understand why they won't release information about her case as well as the police reports regarding her accident.

He wonders whose privacy state police and police are worried about violating.

"What's so criminal about an accident report, if it's (being classified as) a missing person's case?" Murray asked. "They are denying me information which may help me."

**Comments by Sharon Rausch About August 2004, [www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html](http://www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html)**

Comments by Sharon Rausch  
About August 2004  
[www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html](http://www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html)

Maura Murray has been missing since Monday, February 9, 2004. There was a light snow falling, 2 1/2 feet of snow on the ground and a temperature of 12 degrees and falling when Maura slid off Route 112 into a snow bank on a hairpin turn around 7:30 PM near Haverhill, NH. A motorist who also lived nearby offered her assistance, but she refused. He reported that she appeared to be shaken, but uninjured and told him that she was going to call AAA. However, cell phones do not work in the area. The motorist called the police who arrived approximately 10 minutes later to find Maura gone and her car locked. Along with Maura, the only items missing were her cell phone, bank card, cash, driver's license and a small black backpack. The cell phone and the bank card have not been used. Law enforcement did not notify Maura's family until 24 hours after the accident and no search was begun for her until after 36 hours. At that time, an air scent dog traced her 100 yards on the road and lost her scent. The area in which Maura went missing is in The White Mountain National Forest. The area is sparsely populated in summer and during the winter most homes are vacant. There are many mountains, ravines, rivers and creeks. According to the police there are no leads as to her whereabouts. It is as if she vanished into thin air. Maura will be missing 6 months on Monday, August 9. Many friends, family and loved ones have been praying for Maura's safe return. Maura's father has spent every weekend searching for her since she disappeared.

I ask you to forward this message to everyone you know to join us in earnest prayer that God will bring Maura home. I am also asking that you request your church to have a moment of prayer for Maura in your worship service on Sunday, August 8th and to request that each member make it a priority to pray throughout the week that God will comfort, strengthen and provide answers to all of the people that love Maura as they deal with her being missing for 6 months . Most importantly, please pray that God will bring Maura home. We fear that Maura is no longer with us, but we need her home. Please help us and give God the glory!

I would appreciate your reply to me at [mauramissing@hotmail.com](mailto:mauramissing@hotmail.com) if you feel led to pray and/or to ask your church to pray with us.

Thank you.

With Hope in Christ,  
Sharon Rausch

"Our help is from the Lord, who created heaven and earth." Psalm 24:8

**The Caledonian-Record, August 5, 2004, Family, Friends No Closer To Finding Maura Murray, Gary E. Lindsley**

The Caledonian-Record  
Thursday, August 5, 2004

Family, Friends No Closer To Finding Maura Murray  
By Gary E. Lindsley

Maura Murray's friends and family are no closer to finding out what has happened to the 22-year-old nursing student than they were six months ago after learning she disappeared the frigid night of Feb. 9.

Murray, a University of Massachusetts at Amherst student, has not been seen since she was involved in a minor car accident after failing to negotiate a sharp left-hand curve on very rural Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H.

Her father, Fred, still travels to New Hampshire every weekend to search for his daughter.

Maura left her dorm room the afternoon of Feb. 9.

She had researched destinations in Vermont and New Hampshire on her computer before leaving in her father's black 1996 Saturn.

Maura had some of her semester's books with her as well as expensive diamond jewelry and other items. She also had alcohol in the vehicle.

An area contractor, months after the accident, told investigators with New Hampshire State Police he may have seen her running along Route 112 toward the North Woodstock area, about four to five miles from the accident scene.

Maura has not been heard from or seen since - except for a reported sighting in a bar in Rochester in early July.

Although two women have stated they believed the woman was Maura, state police have discounted the alleged sighting without saying why.

Since Maura disappeared, she has not accessed her bank accounts nor used her ATM card.

State police are treating Maura's disappearance as a missing person case and have not brought the FBI into the case.

Fred Murray has spent nearly every weekend searching for her.

Monday marks six months since Maura disappeared and family and friends are asking people around the nation to pray for her.

Sharon Rausch, whose son, Billy, is Maura's boyfriend, said Maura's friends, family and loved ones have been praying for Maura's safe return.

Now, they are asking for others to join with them in the hopes Maura will be safely returned to them.

"I am also asking that you request your church to have a moment of prayer for Maura in your worship service on Sunday, Aug. 8, and to request that each member make it a priority to pray throughout the week that God will comfort, strengthen and provide answers to all of the people that love Maura as they deal with her being missing for six months," Rausch said. "Most importantly, please pray that God will bring Maura home.

"We fear that Maura is no longer with us, but we need her home," she continued. "Please help us."

Rausch said she has sent out 350 e-mails to churches in Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and across the country.

She said she has received between 75 and 100 responses, including two from churches in Haverhill, Mass., stating people will be praying for Maura as Monday marks the sixth month since she was last seen.



**Massachusetts Daily Collegian, September 9, 2004, UMass student still missing since winter, Dan O'Brien**

Massachusetts Daily Collegian  
September 9, 2004

UMass student still missing since winter  
By Dan O'Brien, Collegian Staff

For the parents of many University of Massachusetts students, the start of the school year marks the beginning of a separation period, at least until the holidays. But while some parents are lingering on their child's last goodbye hug, the family of one UMass student is still trying to piece together the disappearance of their daughter from the University campus last winter.

22-year-old Maura Murray, a nursing student, is still missing after 7 months. It was February 9, 2004 when the Hanson, Mass. resident packed up her belongings from her Kennedy Hall dorm room, drove her car to New Hampshire and got into a minor car accident. After the accident, she vanished without a trace. She has not been seen or heard from since that cold February evening.

Maura's parents, Laurie and Fred Murray, have said all along that her daughter had excellent grades. Murray was a Dean's list student a track star in high school, and a close friend to many.

Murray has described her daughter's relationship with her boyfriend, Army Lt. Bill Rauch of Oklahoma as "a very, very good relationship." However, Maura's family and friends suspect foul play was involved in the young woman's disappearance.

Events leading up to her disappearance

There are clues indicating that Maura Murray may have had some personal troubles just before she left UMass.

Maura allegedly left her campus job the Thursday before she disappeared and co-workers described her state as upset and troubled, according to WCVB-TV.

In an interview with WCVB-TV, Maura's older sister, Kathleen Murray of Hanover, Mass., admitted that she had a phone conversation with Maura that evening.

"It was just a regular phone call. It made no difference to me. It was just Maura calling me, that was that. I told her about my day and quarreling with my fiance'," Murray said. "I don't know what I could have done to upset her... Seriously, I think she just wanted to get out of work."

New Hampshire State Police Lt. John Scarinza is one of the lead investigators on the Murray case. He disputes Kathleen Murray's statement about her sister trying to leave work early.

"It wasn't a case where she called the supervisor and said, 'Listen, I've had a bad phone call...' The supervisor on her own initiative said, 'Why don't you take the rest of the night off? I'll walk you to your dorm.' So clearly she was upset," Scarinza told WCVB-TV.

It was less than four days later when Maura decided to leave UMass. She apparently had some type of plan before for her departure.

In the early morning hours of Monday, Feb. 9th Maura performed an Internet search for directions to Burlington, VT and the Berkshires.

"Sometime between Sunday and Monday morning, she packed up all her belongings in her dorm room, to include taking all her pictures off the walls, taking everything out of her bureaus, [and] put them all in boxes [and] left [them] on her bed," Scarinza told WCVB-TV, "[She] left a personal note to her boyfriend on top of the boxes."

Maura Murray's vehicle was then found in the town of Haverhill, N.H. crashed and abandoned on the side of the road. Her doors were reportedly locked and a few items had been removed from her car.

Authorities did not begin their search for Murray until Feb. 11, to the dismay of her parents.

A possible link

It was only about one month after Maura's disappearance when another disappearance of a young woman shocked the northern New England region where Maura was last seen.

17-year-old Brianna Maitland of Montgomery, VT disappeared March 19th after leaving her restaurant job.

About one hour after she left work, her car was found backed into an abandoned barn about 1 1/2 miles away. Her disappearance took place only 90 miles from where Maura was last seen.

The Murray family has publicly said they are not disregarding the idea that there may be a link between the two disappearances.

"If you think about it, both of them had minor accidents and they both disappeared without a trace," Laurie Murray told the Massachusetts Daily Collegian.

Both the families of Murray and Maitland have publicly said they want their respective law enforcement agencies to investigate further if there is a missing link between the two disappearances. Police are not dismissing the link theory, but have said it is unlikely.

"It's hard to believe you'd have that bad of luck," said Scarinza, "We are open minded to anything, but there is no evidence to suggest the cases are related."

No new leads

On July 13th, a search of the woods was conducted, which involved about 90 people. It covered a one-mile radius from where Maura was last seen. Officials recovered several articles of clothing, but none of the items found were linked to Murray.

"As of this date, none of the clothing items recovered appears to have belonged to Maura or appear to be linked to her disappearance. Of the miscellaneous items that were located by the searchers to include several bottles and other products, they do not appear to have any relevance to Maura's disappearance," said Scarinza.

Laurie Murray recently reiterated that no new information has been found. "We continue to never give up hope and we pray," Murray said.

Scarinza said he is hoping someone from UMass might come forward with new information regarding Maura's disappearance. His hope is that Maura did confide in someone as to why she decided to leave school.

"We don't know why Maura left school... Clearly it was her intention to leave school. Clearly she had a destination in mind when she came up north. What clearly did not make sense was that she didn't confide in anyone," Scarinza said.

He went on to say that he is not worried about finding alcohol or drugs if someone were to speak up. "I'm just worried about finding Maura," he said.

Anyone who has any information about the disappearance of Maura Murray is urged to call New Hampshire State Police Sgt. Robert Bruno. His phone number is 603-846-3333. All calls can remain confidential.

## Umass Magazine Online Fall 2004, Missing Maura - seeking peace, Katy LaConte

Umass Magazine Online Fall 2004

Missing Maura - seeking peace

By Katy LaConte

'04

ON FEB. 9, UMASS AMHERST SENIOR Maura Murray left campus and headed north. At around 7 p.m. she got into a car accident on rural Route 112 in Haverhill, N.H. The damage was minor. A local man stopped and offered her assistance but she declined. He called the police anyway. When the police arrived 10 minutes later, her car was locked. Her belongings were still inside. Maura was gone.

Dear Maura,

Who would miss me if I were gone? It's a question that I've asked myself when I'm depressed. It speaks about the fascination we all have with life and death. As morbid as it may seem, that's why so many are interested in your story. They're drawn to it. Your story is so personal, yet universal. Your face has been in the minds of all who love you, and on the lips of so many who never even knew you. So if you were to ask yourself 'who would miss you?' the answer would be simple.

I remember the first time I saw you looking back at me. It was from your missing persons poster on the wall. I saw you as I waited in line at the campus Dunkin' Donuts. My campus. Your campus, too. I wondered if you'd waited in this very line. I looked harder at the picture as I waited, trying to pull out the exact change from my wallet for a hot chocolate. You wore a black button-down shirt and your hair was pulled back in a ponytail. Eyes: blue-green. Hair: brown. Weight: approx 115 lbs. Your attributes were listed as if on a rap sheet. Height: 5' 7", just one inch taller than me. Age 21, like me. Last seen wearing a dark-colored coat. I found myself wondering ridiculous things, like are you one of those girls who always wears her hair in a ponytail? Do you think you look best in dark colors and wear them often, or is it just a coincidence that you wore them in both this picture as well as the last time you were seen? Whose shoulder is that in the picture, who got cut out? Did that person make you smile like that or is that your picture-taking smile? I imagined you the last time that anyone saw you. And then suddenly you're gone from the picture in my head, now just an empty dark road, eerily lit by falling snow. Your car abandoned. I get a chill.

All this from seeing your poster. All this from a stranger. I can only imagine what your family must be feeling. At one point they even moved into a hotel close to where your car was found, just in case. They've agonized over the details. They still do. They rifled through your belongings, searching for clues, anything to tell them what happened to you. Your father searched for you 14 weekends straight. You were lost in the snow. Spring came and went. Now we're into the humid days of summer. This past weekend is the first time that your Dad took a weekend off. People you've never met are left wondering. You've become famous for all the wrong reasons. The question isn't who is missing you, but rather, who isn't. <http://www.spbowers.com/mauramissing.html>

## **New Hampshire Sunday News, November 14, 2004, Looking for Louise's murderer, Lorna Colquhoun**

New Hampshire Sunday News  
November 14, 2004

Looking for Louise's murderer  
By Lorna Colquhoun

GORHAM -- As winter folds over the higher reaches of the White Mountains, friends of a Canadian woman murdered three years ago returned to Pinkham Notch last week to remember a vibrant and adventurous woman.

Along for the ride with Denis Masson and Marie Pinault are the feelings of melancholy, nostalgia and anger that someone has gotten away with the murder of Louise Chaput.

It is the couple's second anniversary trip and accompanying them this year was Chaput's daughter, Corinne, a college student studying to become a school teacher. Her only other trip to the area was during the search for her mother.

"I never came back," she said. "Before, I was not ready, but now it's OK. I don't want to be afraid to come here."

Hiking weekend

Louise Chaput lived in Sherbrooke, Que., a couple of hours north of the White Mountains. On Nov. 15, 2001, she decided to spend the weekend doing some hiking and stayed at the Appalachian Mountain Club in Pinkham Notch. When she didn't return home that Monday, her friends and family reported her missing.

A search was quickly launched. While her car was found immediately, it wasn't until almost four days later that her body was found on the popular Glen Boulder trail, just off Route 16 and about a quarter of a mile from the AMC base camp.

Louise Chaput had been stabbed to death. Her killer has never been found.

Pinault and Chaput were longtime friends. It is Pinault and her husband, Masson, who now make an annual trek from their home in Ottawa to the mountains on the anniversary of Chaput's death, as a way to remember and to remind others that the case has never been solved.

There is also a hope that whoever is responsible will someday step forward and answer a simple question: Why Louise Chaput?

"It is amazing to me that someone is still walking around," Pinault said. "I think there is a sick person out there. I think there is a guy out there who will do this again anytime."

No new leads

Last year, on the second anniversary, the couple tacked up hundreds of flyers from Conway north to Gorham, asking for information.

State police Detective Chuck West said Friday that very few leads have come in recent months.

"We're still working on it, but there is nothing new," he said. "We used to get information in spurts, but it's been about six months since we got anything new."

Earlier this year, police got a warrant to search a Berlin flea market, looking for Louise Chaput's backpack, but it turned out to be nothing, he said.

Her backpack, which is blue with an internal frame and a Canadian flag on the outside, has never been recovered, nor have her keys to her Ford Focus or her sleeping bag.

"It's a challenge for us," West said. "Someone is out there."

West has also worked for the past nine months on the disappearance of Maura Murray, a University of Massachusetts nursing student who vanished following a minor car accident on Route 112 in Haverhill last February.

While both cases are troubling and remain open, West said there is nothing indicating that the two cases are related.

Pinault keeps in regular contact with West. While time has eased the sorrow of losing her dearest friend, Pinault says she will continue to do what she can to make sure Louise Chaput is not forgotten and to one day see someone arrested for her death.

Doubts about justice

It is a sentiment shared by Chaput's daughter.

"I have lost confidence in justice," Corinne Chaput said, "because we didn't find what happened. It has disturbed my life -- I am afraid to walk at night and when I am alone. She is not here in my life and I miss her. I don't have a mother anymore."

Masson and Pinault say they will return to the White Mountains every November until Chaput's killer is found.

Pinault said her other mission during these trips is to remind women, especially those who hike alone, that the person who killed her friend is still at large.

"This is our way of remembering Louise," Chaput said. "We are not going to put (the memories) in a box."

-- Anyone with information about Louise Chaput's murder is asked to call the state police at 846-3333.

**The Patriot Ledger, November 19, 2004, Missing Hanson woman's last call yet to be investigated: N.H. condo owners say police made no effort to contact them since February, Joe McGee**

The Patriot Ledger  
Friday, November 19, 2004

Missing Hanson woman's last call yet to be investigated: N.H. condo owners say police made no effort to contact them since February. By Joe McGee

HANSON - The family of a missing 22-year-old is demanding to know why police apparently failed to investigate one of the last telephone calls she made on the day she disappeared.

At 1 p.m. on Feb. 9, Maura Murray called a Wakefield couple who own a condominium at the Seasons at Attitash resort in Bartlett, N.H., that was for rent. Murray's family has stayed at the resort.

But the couple, Dominic and Linda Salamone, say they have never heard from investigators.

"It's so upsetting," Linda Salamone said last night. "I was the last person she talked to, so wouldn't I be the first person they would call to at least find out her state of mind?"

Murray made her last call at 2 p.m. on the same day to a toll-free number that offers information about lodging in Stowe, Vt.

Salamone said she did not know about Murray's mysterious disappearance until last month, when the mother of the young woman's boyfriend telephoned to ask about the February call.

"I couldn't even tell her what she said because it was so long ago but I'm assuming she wanted to rent the place," Linda Salamone said.

Sharon Rausch, the mother of Murray's boyfriend, Army Lt. Bill Rausch, said she discovered the call to the Salamones last month when she looked over Murray's cell phone bill for February.

"It blew our minds that it's now eight months later and we're finding out that (police) never even called these people," Rausch said.

New Hampshire State Police said the investigator who was given the phone records, Lt. John Scarinza, would not be available for comment until Monday.

This is not the first time the Murray family has criticized the way the investigation has been handled.

In July, Laurie Murray found out from a Patriot Ledger reporter that police had conducted a day-long search for her daughter. Police said they had told her ex-husband, Fred Murray of Weymouth, and assumed he would tell her, but Murray denied in a television interview that he had been notified.

In June, Laurie Murray criticized police for suggesting that her daughter had killed herself or run away. Murray believes her daughter was abducted.

Murray was last seen Feb. 9 in Haverhill, N.H., a small town near the Vermont border, where she crashed her car on Route 112, the Kancamagus Highway. Earlier in the day she left her dormitory at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst without telling anyone why.

Police said Murray was dealing with personal issues, but family members said none of it was serious enough that she would run away.

Bartlett, where the Salamones have their condominium, is about 60 miles east of Haverhill on Route 112.

While the Murrays may have lost faith in the police investigation, they are continuing their effort to find their daughter.

A new website launched last week, [www.mauramurray.com](http://www.mauramurray.com), offers information about the case and a forum for people to chat.

"We've already had interest from people," said Kerri Doble Gingras of Marshfield, a relative of Murray who developed the web site with her husband.

"We're hopeful from having a response that at least she's still on people's minds," she said.

Murray's story will be featured on the Montel Williams talk show on a date to be announced.

Over the last month, volunteers have also attached photos of Murray to their mail with information about how to contact police.

But the family is also dealing with another crisis.

Laurie Murray was diagnosed with throat cancer last month and is undergoing 30 days of chemotherapy and radiation.

"Everything comes in numbers. We already had Maura and now this," Murray said. "But I'm a fighter and I'll beat this."

She said she is determined to see her daughter again.

"I want her home for the holidays," she said.



**Journal Opinion, June 1, 2016, Book Review - More than a crash and vanish book, Elena A. Chevalier**

Journal Opinion

June 1, 2016

Pages 1 & 15

Book Review

More than a crash and vanish book

By Elena A. Chevalier

HAVERHILL--Things are not always what they seem. If you offer a ravenous person stale crackers sprinkled with hot sauce, he'll probably want to eat them, but it doesn't necessarily reflect the quality of the food offered. Such is the case with the book that some have called the definitive guide to the disappearance of Maura Murray.

That was this reviewer's first response to *True Crime Addict* by James Renner, released by St. Martin's Press last week. The intro formed in my mind after reading the end of the book first, my normal practice, and then the beginning.

I determined to give Renner the opportunity to prove himself more than just an opportunist sensationalizing the disappearance of the UMass nursing student following an accident on Route 112 in Haverhill on the evening of Feb. 9, 2004.

In the first third of the book I struggled to get past some roadblocks set up by the fact that my home is just a few miles away from the scene of the accident; close enough to have been stopped by an actual police roadblock at that now infamous blue ribbon-festooned tree.

The book's roadblocks included my indignation toward an author admittedly driving drunk over our windy country roads in the dark on an anniversary of the crash. Was it worth it to endanger our lives in an attempt to create some glitch in the universe's computer simulation and expose some evidence by recreating Murray's final path?

Another roadblock was my disrespect for an investigator who apparently can't tell the difference between Mount Moosilauke and Mount Washington, mentioned frequently, and who allowed a map in his book that put Haverhill smack dab in the middle of Vermont. But then, Renner, a former journalist, did advise his readers that the first thing he learned as a reporter was that "nothing you read in the newspaper is true." Perhaps his journalistic training spilled over into this book?

For years, Renner devoted himself to researching, interviewing, analyzing and internalizing the convoluted case, despite resistance from Murray's family, some of Murray's friends and even some resistance from locals in the Journal Opinion's readership.

The 62-chapter book provides details of copious conversations. In fact, the book includes accounts of both cooperative interviewees and noncooperative subjects including some who levied threats against Renner.

There were other roadblocks. Renner didn't stop with digging into Murray's past, he also dug into the history of the geographical areas he visited and sprinkled his narrative with dirt. His ribald history of Woodsville, however, is tempered by the first line of the following paragraph. If he couldn't get those details straight, it was easier to dismiss his previous ignominious comments.

Not all roadblocks were personal. It was hard to get past any disdain for a father who repeatedly "exploited" his kindergarten-age son in the book. Was the self-proclaimed sociopath using his family's pain to propel profits?

By the time I trekked into the second third of the book, I needed to backtrack a bit. It was time for a reassessment of the facts; back to the beginning that is, the front cover.

TRUE CRIME ADDICT How I Lost Myself in the Mysterious Disappearance of Maura Murray.

Ah ha! Renner never claimed on the cover to directly address the disappearance. It was my assumption that skewed my perceptions.

Once I uncovered where he was coming from. I thought perhaps he might not be a scumbag after all.

Renner, it turns out, is well known in circles that devour every shred of minutiae, and chew on it as a cow chews her cud, through his blog My Search for Maura Murray. He is the author of several articles and books including The Serial Killer's Apprentice and The Man from Primrose Lane.

After several trips to New England from his home state of Ohio and amidst the seemingly endless array of interviews, the crime writer floated a few theories on what happened to Murray that night. Eventually, he presented his own evidence-based theory amidst more true confessions of his own.

Readers will appreciate the amount of detailed information provided about Murray and her possible whereabouts. but truly the story is about Renner himself.

Despite my initial negative response to True Crime Addict, by the last third of the book I was absolutely enthralled by the narrative crafted by a master storyteller.

When I finished the book I sat in awe contemplating the skill arrogant humility, brokenness and bridled turpitude that enabled the author to fuse the disappearance of a young woman with the disappearance of James Renner himself.

In spite of the roadblocks local readers may run into. I can't imagine a better way to portray Murray's disappearance than through the heartbreaking story of two twisted lives entwined as Renner designed in this book.

**The Patriot Ledger, May 23, 2018, “Journalist, others, still in search of missing Hanson woman”**

<https://www.patriotledger.com/news/20180523/journalist-others-still-in-search-of-missing-hanson-woman>

Journalist, others, still in search of missing Hanson woman

By Jessica Trufant

The Patriot Ledger

May 23, 2018 at 8:23 PM

Investigators know that Hanson native Maura Murray left her dorm at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst on Feb. 9, 2004, and drove north. They know she made it at least as far Haverhill, N.H., a mountainside town near the Vermont border.

Residents reported seeing the 21-year-old along a sharp turn on Route 112 after her car had gone off the road and slammed into a snow bank. One passer-by said he offered help, but Murray said road assistance was on its way and she was all set.

The man drove home and called police. When officers arrived a short time later, Murray had vanished, leaving no footprints in the snow and only scattered clues.

No one has heard from Murray since then, and investigators and family members have spent more than 14 years trying to find out what happened to her.

Public radio producer Maggie Freleng and former U.S. Marshal Art Roderick set out to try to answer that question in the Oxygen true crime TV series “The Disappearance of Maura Murray.” They worked with Lance Reenstierna and Tim Piller, who host a podcast about Maura Murray’s disappearance, and James Renner, who wrote a book about the case.

Freleng also recently attended CrimeCon — a convention in Nashville for true crime enthusiasts — and shared Murray’s case with hundreds of people.

“We’ve had lots and lots of people come forward with information after the show aired, especially from October to February,” said Freleng, who attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst years after Murray was a student there. “We’re constantly passing information off to the cold case unit.”

Freleng said she’s heard from people as far away as Australia and London who follow the case and care about Murray’s story.

The case is full of inconsistencies and maddening questions.

Murray notified her professors that she wouldn’t be in class due to a death in the family, which had not actually occurred. She packed, took cash out of her bank account, purchased some alcohol and set off from Amherst. She didn’t share her plans with anyone, but her father, Fred Murray, who now lives on Cape Cod, has said he believes his daughter was heading to Bartlett, N.H., a spot in the White Mountains they had previously visited.

Maura's car was going east on Route 112, a rural highway, when it went off the road at about 7:30 that night. Several witnesses reported seeing her outside her car after the crash, but police said Murray was gone when they arrived about 15 minutes later. Searches were conducted on the ground and by helicopter, but Maura never turned up. The New Hampshire State Police, the attorney general's office and the FBI all worked on the case, which remains open but has gone cold.

While some people have speculated that Murray chose to disappear and start a new life somewhere else, Freleng said she discounts that theory after visiting the site.

"As soon as I went out there and stood in the dark, as a young woman, I can say I'd never run into those woods. She didn't do that," she said, adding that experts she spoke to for the docu-series stressed that it would take a criminal mastermind to run away and stay hidden for 14 years.

"It seems she was stressed and had a lot going on in life and she needed a break, and something unfortunate happened on her way up there," Freleng said.

Freleng, Roderick, Reenstierna and Piller created an online fundraiser to raise reward money, and have collected nearly \$6,000 to try to get people talking about the case. Freleng said both the Murray family and the New Hampshire State Police approved of the reward fundraiser.