

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeanne Palfrey

Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 10:25 AM

To: 'William.Cowden@usdoj.gov'

Subject: Jeane Palfrey (US vs. 803 Capitol Street)...

Dear Mr. Cowden... attached please find an article published in this Tuesday's Baltimore Sun. The parallels although not completely on-point with my case, are nonetheless sufficiently salient. The piece here was forwarded to me by a concerned individual NOT to cheer me up (obviously), but to underscore via the attorney's remarks the senselessness of my current dilemma, i.e. the tragic destruction/waste of a viable human being. Of course, I cannot and will not expand upon my position/defense in this correspondence without benefit of counsel. I understand the inappropriate nature of such an act. In fact, I fully appreciate the inappropriateness of this communiqué and equally comprehend your ethical duty to "report me" to both Mr. Sibley and Mr. Kramer (I am braced to deal with their wrath). However, before matters compound even more and perhaps irrevocably so, I must take this opportunity to ask that you and your colleagues take a very hard look from a moral stance, if none other at the matter at hand. I know for a reality others certainly will question the justification for this effort to prosecute me. The publicity generated from the unsigned search warrant posted on the online tabloid rag www.thesmokinggun.com alone last October, gives testament to the interest and subsequent scrutiny a high-profile case like mine spawns. When Googled, the coverage at its height was seven plus pages. And the only reason the publicity online (exclusive of other media at the time – 'Inside Edition', 'Hard Copy', local news – here and there - and a myriad of news organizations and newspapers, nationally AND internationally all in hot pursuit of me) was kept to a mere seven pages was because I evaded everyone/anyone after being apprised initially of the situation (ironically from The Smoking Gun) while in Germany. It also should be noted the initial coverage last fall was based solely upon one side of the story and correspondingly did not bode well for me. As we all know though from life's adventures, there is always a flip side to every coin and surely in time, this other side will be reported in the more legitimate press. Again, I realize the anomalous nature of writing to you. And I apologize for any discomfort this may cause you. Regardless, I simply cannot emphasize to you the terrible and quite unnecessary ramifications this case (civil and/or criminal) will set off, if permitted to advance for both sides. The press will have a field day at each of our expense. Despite my aforementioned disclaimer not to comment upon my case, let me say this. The attached item rings more true than false when juxtaposed to my situation. Unlike Ms. Britton however, I am ferocious fighter when need be. Knowing my intense makeup as I do, far more than even my attorneys comprehend at this juncture and my belief in the solidness of my case, I can state with unequivocal certainty this situation will be a very long and unpleasant one; this despite, the sickening and humiliating additional lambasting I expect to receive in the media. Please reflect soberly upon my various thoughts, here. This is all I ask. –Sincerely, Jeane Palfrey



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Former professor's tumultuous life ends with suicide

Prostitution charges only part of troubles

BY MELISSA HARRIS AND TYRONE RICHARDSON
SUN REPORTERS

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED JANUARY 30, 2007

Accused of prostitution and scheduled for trial next week, Brandy Britton faced an additional indignity: losing her more than half-million dollar Howard County home.

The eviction notice was still taped to the door when police announced yesterday that Britton, a once-promising sociologist whose research had attracted federal grants and the respect of colleagues, had apparently committed suicide. A relative found the former University of Maryland, Baltimore County assistant professor dead Saturday afternoon inside the two-story, brown and beige home in the 10200 block of Shirley Meadow Court in Ellicott City and called 911, according to Howard County police.

The eviction, which was scheduled for Thursday, was another sign of the circumstances Britton was grappling with days before her jury trial on charges that she ran an upscale prostitution service from her affluent cul-de-sac.

In the home where neighbors once noticed men pulling up in fancy cars and staying only briefly, Britton, 43, apparently hanged herself, police said. Yesterday, the driveway was empty except for single copies of two newspapers.

Police declined to release additional information, including whether Britton, who had two college-age children, left a suicide note.

"Her death underscores an important

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Brandy Britton
(Sun photo by David Hobby)
Aug 9, 2006



Brandy M. Britton
(Sun photo by Christopher T. Assaf)
May 25, 2006

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question: Was the public benefited at all by the resources spent on her arrest and prosecution?" her attorney, Christopher Flohr, wrote in a statement. "As we ponder the apparent senselessness of her passing, we must openly wonder about the purpose, necessity and utility of a criminal justice system that seeks to punish a person rather than to heal them."

Her home was sold in foreclosure for \$561,000 in November, according to property records. But Britton refused to leave, and the new owners initiated eviction proceedings, said Byron L. Huffman, their attorney.

Meanwhile, Britton's prostitution trial was set for Monday. Britton faced four counts of prostitution stemming from an undercover bust in January 2006. Police were alerted to the case by an anonymous caller, who pointed them to a Web site that advertised the services of "Alexis" and included photographs of a scantily clad woman, allegedly Britton.

The site described her home as a "discreet, upscale location in Howard County" and Alexis as "sophisticated, refined, educated and articulate," with undergraduate degrees in biology, sociology and "a Ph.D. from an elite university."

The disclaimer on the now-defunct Web site said that Alexis took money only for companionship at rates of \$300 an hour and up. But when an undercover vice and narcotics officer scheduled an appointment, Britton led him upstairs, told him to undress and leave \$400 by the bedroom door, police alleged.

"On a first-time offense, she probably would have been given probation before judgment, meaning she wouldn't have done time and it would have gone away after a year," said Wayne Kirwan, a spokesman for Howard County State's Attorney Timothy J. McCrone.

Sheigla Murphy, who attended graduate school with Britton at the University of California, San Francisco, said her former friend was a woman of wonderful first impressions but raging, disruptive departures.

"She was a very remarkable single parent who was working, supporting her two kids, and going to a very demanding graduate school program," Murphy said. "She was very, very smart. ... I'm not really comfortable speaking about how our friendship ended. This is one of the last things that her kids, who I was close to, will have of her."

Her death marks the end of a life that began with much promise - a warm and brilliant student determined to achieve what no one in her family had and to make a difference in the lives' of abused and drug-addicted women.

In the end, however, marital troubles, foreclosures, bankruptcy, and sexual harassment and gender discrimination lawsuits swirled around Britton.

Sheila Cordray, a professor emeritus of sociology at Oregon State University, remembers the Britton of 20 years ago. Cordray described Britton as a driven undergraduate student. Cordray was hesitant to accept Britton in high-level research course, thinking the

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workload would overwhelm the expectant mother.

"She had the baby over the weekend and was back in class on Monday," Cordray said. "I never remember her skipping a day."

Britton established the campus' "Safe Ride" program at Oregon State. Women would call drivers to escort them home to avoid walking around campus alone at night, Cordray said.

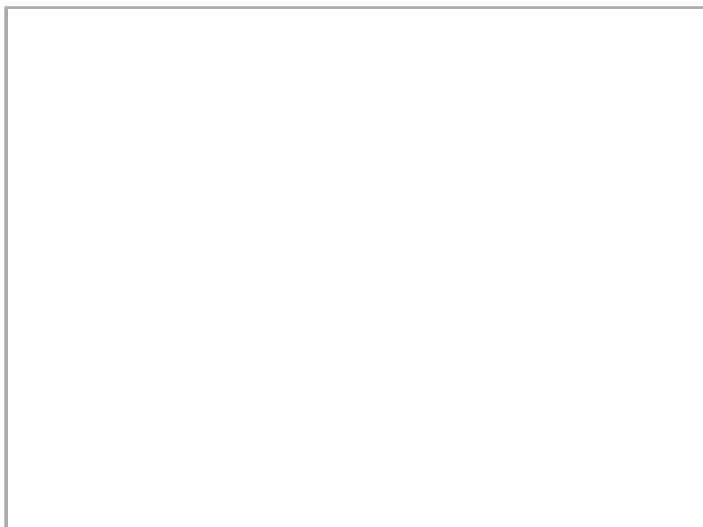
Britton's "good work persists to this day," she said. "In spite of her being so driven, she was a warm person. She cared about people. She was passionate about the causes she was involved in. She was passionate about rights for women and women's safety."

Signs of distress, however, began to show shortly after Britton earned her doctorate in sociology in 1993 from the University of California, San Francisco.

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