

**Middlebury Police Department  
Media Release**

**5 April 2008**

**Subject: Missing Person Investigation – Nicholas Garza**

The Middlebury Police Department organized two search efforts today with the purpose of finding Nicholas Garza and/or anything that would be relevant to determining the manner and cause of his disappearance.

The Addison County Community Emergency Response Team searched private residential and other areas adjoining the eastern side of the Middlebury College Campus, primarily in the South Street and Weybridge Street areas. The search included sheds, garages, wooded and open areas, hedgerows and other areas that had, until recently, been covered with compacted snow and ice and unattainable for searching.

The search commenced shortly after 9 a.m. and was completed at 4:00 p.m. A debriefing with the team revealed a high degree of certainty that Nicholas was not in these areas, nor was anything found relevant to the investigation. There were still sections of the search area where accumulated snow and ice prevented searchers from accessing or probing these sections. In addition, meltwater has flooded some of the low-lying areas preventing access.

These areas have been retained on the future search list.

Simultaneously, two members of the Saranac, NY, Fire Department Technical Rescue Team working with members of the Middlebury Fire Department began assessing the Otter Creek in preparation for an underwater search of the river tentatively scheduled for the middle of next week. The Saranac Fire Department Technical Rescue Team is led by Chief Don Uhler.

With the receding snow and milder temperatures, another ground search by combined teams is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 8.

To date, there have been seven(7) full-scale, multi-agency ground searches, commencing on the first day of the investigation (February 11) and continuing on February 12, 16, 23, March 18, 27, and April 5. The February searches were hampered by deep snow and single-digit temperatures. In addition, there have been over a dozen smaller-scale, small area searches conducted by the Middlebury Police Department and the Vermont Outdoor Guide Association. Equipment used in these searches includes thermal imaging equipment, ground penetrating radar, a helicopter, and 13 canines, primarily air-scenting dogs.

To date, over 32 organizations have provided technical, logistical, and staffing support to the Middlebury Police Department, most of the assistance coming and planned in the first week of the investigation. Through the first seven weeks of the investigation, the Middlebury Police and various search teams have logged over 3,000 staff hours on this case.

More details on the coming search efforts will be provided on Monday, April 7.

In the meantime, the investigation into the manner and cause of Nicholas' disappearance continues. No substantive new leads have been developed at this point.

All media releases can be found at [www.middleburypolice.org](http://www.middleburypolice.org) click on "news" follow the link to the missing college student.

Chief Thomas Hanley