Booze, boys and benders

Before being jailed, Amanda was well known at the University of Washington for her partying – and for having relationships with lots of boys. ‘She was friendly to all men she came into contact with,’ says Philip Setran, a medical student who shared a dormitory with Amanda. ‘She had what in polite terms you’d call a lot of close male friends.’ Others are more blunt, describing ‘Foxy Knoxy’ – her MySpace name – as a ‘man-eater’ during that time.

In 2006, she rented a home on Greek Row, a street packed with raucous fraternity houses and where the parties were so wild that the police were often required to break them up. She was fined $269 (£170) after one incident in July 2007 when gangs of students, reportedly high on drink and drugs, hurled rocks into the road.

That was a few months before she left for Italy. There, she threw herself into the party scene, clubbing ’til dawn and dating Italian student Raffaele Sollecito. But that all ended when flatmate Meredith was found dead...