

## Murder probe focuses on Willowbrook

The investigation into the murder of Shin-ae (Emma) Lee of 7 Jasper St., Sea View, apparently is centering around the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook, where she had been employed as a registered nurse.

Elin M. Howe, director of the center, said that police are questioning many of Mrs. Lee's co-workers and staff members who were in the area the night she disappeared.

Mrs. Lee reportedly had been threatened by a co-worker who had been fired after Mrs. Lee gave her a poor work evaluation. Police said that there is no indication the fired co-worker had anything to do with Mrs. Lee's death.

There were also reports that the night Mrs. Lee disappeared, workers in a building close to where the body was found heard screams.

Miss Howe said, "It is not uncommon for patients to scream when they become excited, so there was no reason to call the (city) police at that time."

Dr. Michael M. Baden, the city's chief medical examiner, said Monday Mrs. Lee was strangled. According to police, it has not been determined whether the woman had been sexually abused.

The woman's unclothed body was found in a shallow grave on the center's grounds. It was partially decomposed because of the heavy rains over the past two weeks, and further tests must be performed before a determination on sexual abuse is made, according to the

medical examiner's office.

Deputy Inspector Vincent Brogan, who is heading the investigation, said that although no arrests had been made so far, "this case is going to be a good one to crack."

Mrs. Lee was last seen July 20 walking from Building 11 of the center toward her home. Police said she always walked through the wooded area where her body was found after completing her 3-to-11:45 p.m. shift. Mrs. Lee was reported missing by her husband, Jun-ho, July 22.

John Degnan and Robert Dianora, the two detectives assigned to the case, asked that anyone with information about the case to contact them at 987-7935. All conversations will be kept confidential, they said.