

Intensive search fails to find missing woman

By THOMAS CHECCHI

The search continued today at the Staten Island Developmental Center for Ethel L. Atwell, 46, of Newark, a center employee reported missing early yesterday.

Mrs. Atwell, a mental hygiene therapist at the center for nearly 15 years, reportedly arrived for work as usual at 6 a.m. and parked her car in a small lot behind Building 47, where she works.

Meanwhile, center officials conceded that security on the 382-acre campus is lacking, and some employees condemned the lack of security provisions, especially lighting in the isolated area.

Allen Heath, an assistant supervisor, who investigated the scene shortly after Mrs. Atwell's disappearance, said: "We've been screaming about the lighting situation for months, but no one does anything about it. You wouldn't believe how dark it was out there."

The five residents of the building have been relocated to Building 33, while police use Building 47 as a temporary headquarters.

After reports from several employees of "terrible screams" coming from the parking lot shortly after 6 a.m., Heath went to investigate.

He searched the lot and surrounding area, finding Mrs. Atwell's car. Next to the car Heath reportedly spotted a purse, shoe, false teeth, an earring and several buttons.

Mrs. Atwell's son, Kenneth, later confirmed that they belonged to his mother. Heath said he drove his car to the



A state trooper with a bloodhound leads detectives through a wooded area in search of a missing Staten Island