

Police search Manhattan for missing SIDC resident

City police and transit officers combed through Manhattan yesterday for a Staten Island Developmental Center resident who disappeared from an outing on the Staten Island Ferry Friday afternoon.

John Connelly, 46, the missing man, is severely retarded. He is unable to speak and can only communicate by waving his hands.

The Willowbrook center resident went for a round-trip ferry ride Friday with 17 other people who receive training with him

during the week at the Federation Employment Guidance Service, 510 E. 6th St., Manhattan.

Detective William Salvia, the Missing Persons Squad detective in charge of the investigation, said he received reports that a man fitting Connelly's description was seen on a northbound No. 2 or 3 IRT subway and later in an abandoned Harlem building, but nothing turned up.

"I can't imagine that no one has picked him up yet," Salvia said. "I hope and pray someone helps him."

According to Willinda Brown, a developmental center administrator, Connelly was on the John F. Kennedy boat with his co-workers and a number of supervisors from the guidance service when it left the Whitehall terminal at 12:30 p.m. Friday.

He was on the boat when it left the St. George terminal for the return trip just after 1 p.m.

Connelly was present for the line up before the group left the boat in Manhattan, but when they

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Missing

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got off the boat, he was gone, said Phyllis Sanftner, the developmental center administrator on duty last night.

Connelly is white, about 5 feet

1 inch tall, weighs 110 pounds, has brown hair, brown eyes and was wearing jeans, a gray, red and blue pullover shirt and sneakers.

Though Connelly is unable to speak, he responds to his own last name.

Police officers from the 1st Precinct, Manhattan, were notified by Connelly's supervisors, who contacted the Missing Persons Squad and the Transit Police.

Salvia said another report he

received that a man fitting the description was spotted in lower Manhattan yesterday afternoon worries him.

"He can easily get intermingled in lower Manhattan and get lost in the crowd," the detective said.

Salvia said he does not think Connelly is afraid of people, but because he cannot speak, people might not understand that he needs help.

— CHRIS OLERT
and LORI WEINRAUB



John Connelly