

# Lost retarded man found at Bellevue

By WENDY DILLER

John Connelly, the severely retarded Staten Island Developmental Center resident who disappeared Friday from an outing, was found last night in a psychiatric ward at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan.

Lourdes Sumilang, an assistant head nurse in the ward, recognized the 46-year-old man, who cannot speak, from a description given to her over the phone by developmental center officials. She said that police brought Connelly to Bellevue Saturday after they noticed him behaving strangely in the Port Authority Bus Terminal on 42nd Street. He was admitted to the ward for observation on Sunday at 4:30 a.m.

"He's in good physical condition, but psychologically he's still withdrawn and bizarre," Sumilang said last night. "He's not relating; he's not talking." Connelly can communicate only by waving his hands.

Connelly's discovery was almost accidental, according to Scott Booth, the developmental center's evening administrator. He said that a staff member called Bellevue at 5:20 p.m. last night to follow up on a mailing made Wednesday to every hospital in Staten Island and Manhattan. The mailing, profiling the missing man in detail, was the second since Saturday.

"We called Bellevue twice this evening — initially they didn't know if they had a man fitting the description. But we didn't get the name of the person on the phone and called back. A nurse answered, we gave her a description of John and she said there was a person in Bellevue who fit the description," said Booth.

Two staff members from the center rushed to Bellevue to identify him. Sumilang said, "I used to talk to him, but I didn't get a reaction. But, when people from the center came over to him, he looked like he had a pleasant reaction. He waved his hands. They seemed familiar to him."

Booth said that Connelly would be released from Bellevue and brought back to the developmental center today.

Connelly disappeared during an outing on the Staten Island Ferry with 17 other people who receive training with him during the week at the Federation Employment Guidance Service in lower Manhattan.

A developmental center administrator said at the time Connelly was aboard the boat when it left the Whitehall terminal at 12:30 p.m. He was also aboard when it left the St. George terminal for the return trip at 1 p.m. But he was gone when the group got off the boat, the supervisor said.