

Dogs try again to sniff out missing girl

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The Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook was sealed off yesterday afternoon as trained dogs from the Transit Police Department Canine Patrol were used to try to sniff out some trace of Jennifer Schweiger.

Holly Ann Hughes' sister, Patty, has joined the search for the 12-year-old Westerleigh girl, who has been missing since July 9, according to Bob Cacciola, president of Richmond County R.E.A.C.T. and Friends of Children.

Holly Ann Hughes is one of

three other missing Staten Island children police believe may have disappeared under similar circumstances.

The search of the SIDC grounds yesterday did not turn up any clues to the girl's whereabouts, according to Lt. John Carlo, supervisor of the canine patrol.

"We sent two teams in and searched a wooded area behind Building 49," the lieutenant said. "One of the psychics had keyed in on the area. We did some searching and digging, but found nothing that would indicate a crime or criminal activity, and no indica-

tion she was there."

Under Carlo's direction, Officer Louis Rivera and Sgt. Ed Solomon each stalked the dense, tick-filled woods with trained German shepherds from noon to 3 p.m.

The dogs and their handlers, part of the largest canine patrol in the state, were called in by local police. They had been used to help search the miles of subterranean passageways at the SIDC facility a week earlier.

Using some items of Jennifer's provided by the girl's parents, the German shepherds, yesterday were familiarized with her scent

and scoured the area trying to find anything she may have touched, authorities said. The dogs are also trained in "cadaver search," or scenting dead bodies, according to police.

"You have to get there right after the incident to have the best shot at (finding something)," Carlo said. "Now, we are looking for anything with her scent on it."

Law enforcement agencies citywide have been helping with the search, coordinating their efforts through Island police. Police

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