

1 man the link to missing girls?

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A common thread has been found in the disappearance of the 12-year-old Westerleigh girl with Down's syndrome who vanished 12 days ago and the disappearances of three other Staten Island children.

None of the children has ever been found, and, one man, a transient, has surfaced in each of the investigations.

The current police investigation involves a transient who police said matches the description of a man whom witnesses saw Jennifer Schweiger with. The same man has been "somehow placed in the area" prior to the disappearance of 7-year-old Holly Ann Hughes in July 1981 and that of 10-year-old Tiahease Jackson in August two years later, according to authorities.

As part of routine police procedure, police sought out a "bunch" of men who either matched the description of the man seen with Jennifer Schweiger the day she vanished or had histories of crimes against children.

The transient was in that group. Police had questioned the same transient at the time of Holly Ann's disappearance.

The suspected transient voluntarily agreed to be

interviewed early during the search for Jennifer, and remained with detectives for hours over a two-day period as teams of investigators "tried to break him," authorities said.

Investigators said that at this point there is no conclusive evidence that a crime has been committed in the disappearance of Jennifer and are maintaining publicly that no particular individual has been singled out in the case.

Tiahease Jackson disappeared while on a grocery errand for a neighbor near her home at the Conca D'Oro Motel in Mariners Harbor. After almost two weeks of intense searching, police ended the widespread hunt.

Holly Ann Hughes disappeared from in front of her Port Richmond home. Holly Ann's picture was placed on milk cartons distributed throughout the metropolitan area and the nation as part of a campaign to help locate 24 children believed to have been criminally abducted.

Investigators at the time of the disappearance expressed concern because a railroad overpass near Holly Ann's Park Avenue home was a gathering place for "drunks, drug users and derelicts," one of

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