

Eerie words of kidnap suspect on 3 missing little S.I. girls . . .



JENNIFER SCHWEIGER
Still missing.

By ANNE MURRAY, KIERAN CROWLEY, & SONIA REYES
A HOMELESS ex-convict with a record as a sex offender was being held without bail today in the disappearance of Staten Island 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger.

Police sources told The Post that when they first questioned 43-year-old Andre Rand about Jennifer and two other missing Staten Island girls, he replied:

"You'll never find them."

Two investigators told The Post they fear they may be dealing with a serial killer.

Rand was charged yesterday with kidnaping and unlawful imprisonment in Jennifer's disappearance on July 9th.

His arrest came after police took him to Bayonne, N.J., to investigate his alibi and "it did not check out," according to a police source.

Investigators said several witnesses have identified the slouching loner with close-cropped gray hair as the man they saw walking hand-in-hand with Jennifer when the girl with Down's Syndrome was last seen.

During a brief appearance yesterday in Staten Island Criminal Court, Rand was ordered held without bail pending a 30-day psychiatric evaluation at Kings County Hospital.

Judge Alan Meyer ordered a suicide watch for the prisoner after his Legal Aid lawyer said he "remains totally unresponsive."

Since Jennifer's disappearance, scores of volunteers have been searching the area surrounding the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook — near her home in the Castleton Corners section — but no trace of the youngster has been found and it is not known whether she's dead or alive.

Police sources said

'YOU'LL NEVER FIND THEM'

No bail for ex-convict sex fiend

Rand, who also used the names Frank Bruchett and Frank Rashan, is a suspect in four other Staten Island disappearances — three of young girls and one of a middle-aged female employe

at Willowbrook.

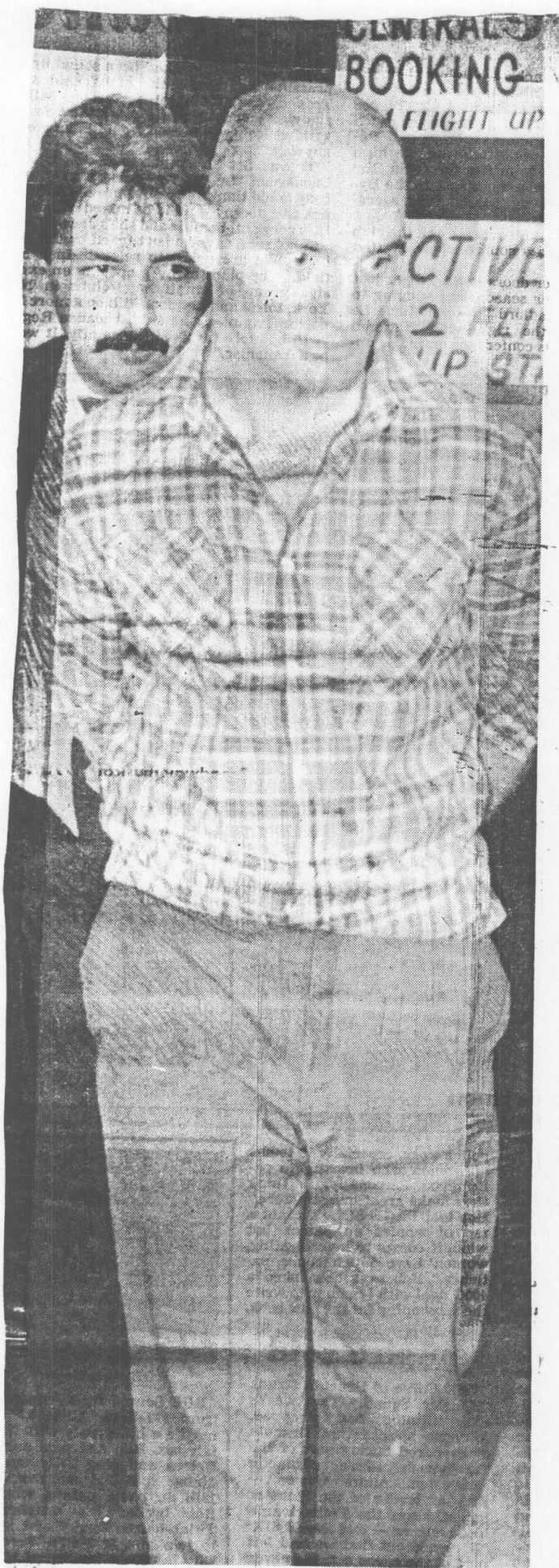
In addition, investigators said, Rand is expected to be questioned about disappearances in other boroughs and other parts of the metropolitan area because

he drove a car and was known to travel beyond Staten Island.

"He could have gone anywhere," said one detective.

Rand's criminal record includes a 1969

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Lyle Bogoratt

Andre Rand, an ex-convict sex offender, is brought into custody yesterday for the kidnaping of Jennifer Schweiger, 12.

Vagrant tied to 4 other cases

By ANNE E. MURRAY

ANDRE Rand, the vagrant charged with kidnaping 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger, is a suspect in four other Staten Island disappearances, according to police sources. Three of the disappearances involve young girls and one involves a 46-year-old woman who worked at the state Developmental Center at Willowbrook. Here's the grim rundown of

Staten Island's missing persons:

- Tiahease Jackson, 10, disappeared Aug. 13, 1983, after she left a Marine's Harbor welfare motel to go to a nearby supermarket.
- Holly Ann Hughes, 7, was last seen July 15, 1981, in a delicatessen near her home in the Port Richmond section.
- Rand was questioned shortly after her disappearance.
- Ethel Alirell, 46, an aide at

- the state mental hospital aide, who was heard screaming as she was dragged from her car in a Willowbrook parking lot on Oct. 25, 1978.
- Rand, who worked at Willowbrook 10 years earlier, has often camped out on the sprawling hospital grounds.
- Alice Pareira, 5, disappeared July 10, 1972 while playing with a group of children outside a New Derry apartment complex.

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

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Suspect labeled 'Strange ... shrewd'

By DEAN C. BALSAMINI
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

The transient charged with kidnapping Jennifer Schweiger is just as mysterious as her disappearance.

Andre Rand was described by those who routinely saw him as a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and despised animals.

"It's pretty hard to put a finger on where he was coming from," according to Matthew Matejko, a social worker at Brighton Heights Reformed Church, 320 St. Mark's Place.

Rand gave police that location as his home address, but Matejko said it had been several months since the homeless man last visited the church.

"He stopped in here rarely and would drive around on a little bicycle — stop by for a sandwich or two, and say hi."

Matejko said Rand was "very ambitious" and had a sign-making business at a Bay Street business location.

"As far as I know, he was still homeless," Matejko said.

The social worker said Rand felt uncomfortable talking about himself during an interview at the men's shelter.

"He was very friendly, cooperative, (but) not willing to disclose anything about his past. He was very independent. It took him a while to admit to us he was homeless."

An employee at a Westerleigh

bakery, who wished to remain anonymous, said she believed Rand owned a bicycle store on Watchogue Road in 1981.

"I think he lived in there," she said.

The woman said the store employees referred to Rand as "Dirty Harry," because of his motley appearance.

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"The last time he came into the store was November. He used to get stale rolls for a \$1. He would pull out a \$100 bill and (ask for) change of the bill as a joke," she said, shaking her head.

Wes Schulz, a security officer at the Pathmark supermarket at 1351 Forest Ave., Port Richmond, said Rand frequented the store late at night.

"He's got to be a loner. I've hardly ever seen him with anybody or talking to people ... I've worked in this store for more than 2½ years — midnights."

Schulz said following Jennifer's July 9 disappearance, Rand started coming to the store with two boys. Neighbors of the Schweiger family said they also saw Rand with the boys.

Westerleigh residents and police interviewed during the search said Rand was known to ride around on a bicycle on a daily basis, canvassing the area for returnable bottles.

"He sold that bike in this store to a late night cashier about a week after the incident happened," Schulz said.

"He's been around this area for a long time. He was arrogant and very nasty. There was always something strange about him. You ever look at somebody and he looks strange?"

Police said, at one time, Rand may have gone by another name, Bruchette. A Port Richmond woman last night said Rand introduced himself to her at a local bus stop two years ago as Daniel Fhy.

The woman said Rand told her at one point to get rid of her five cats and two dogs "because he despised animals."

Rosemarie Azzara described Rand as "nice to children in the neighborhood."

She said Rand was always around the neighborhood and would rush to help out at accident scenes and emergencies. Mrs. Azzara said Rand did not grub money and always seemed to have a little cash on hand.

"It's like he's two different people. He's completely different now from when I've seen him in the neighborhood," she said, referring to the way Rand acted in court yesterday.