

# FOR EX-CONVICT—JENNIFER IS STILL MISSING

# Charge 'Pied Piper' in girl's kidnap

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Police Bureau Chief

Portrayed by police as a shrewd Pied Piper who only feigns mental illness, a convicted sex offender stood mute and drooling yesterday in a crowded courtroom as he formally was charged with abducting a 12-year-old Staten Island girl.

**Stopped, toothless** and balding, Andre Rand, 43, bowed his head as his attorney entered a plea of innocent to charges that he kidnaped Jennifer Schweiger, a Down's syndrome victim who vanished mysteriously while walking near her home July 9.

Despite almost daily searches by police with dogs and helicopters and the assistance of scores of volunteers, Jennifer has not been found.

Her parents, Kenneth and Karen Schweiger, sat three rows back in the packed Staten Island Criminal Court, looking for the first time at the man accused of walking off with their daughter. Tears welled in their eyes as the Schweigers embraced.

### 'Serial killer'?

Rand, convicted of a sexual assault on a 9-year-old Bronx girl in 1969, also has been linked to the disappearances of three other little girls on Staten Island. In addition, one high-ranking police source confided, "We believe he is a serial killer."

Sources said that Rand was identified by five witnesses as the man seen walking hand-in-hand with Jennifer on July 9. Police Capt. Michael Julian said the witnesses "have positively identified him as the person with Jennifer."

When police previously hauled him in for questioning, Rand maintained that he had been in New Jersey on the day Jennifer disappeared. Police sources said that story didn't hold up. But authorities released him on July 11, hoping he would lead them to Jennifer. After he didn't, he was taken into custody early Tuesday morning and charged about 11 p.m. Tuesday.

Police concede they have no physical evidence against Rand. But they cited what they

*The stories on the arrest of Andre Rand were reported by Daily News Staff Writers Larry Celona, Mary Engels, Bill Farrell, Mary Ann Giordano and David J. Krajicek.*

called his false alibi, witness identifications and the fact that police dogs detected Jennifer's scent near a makeshift campsite, where Rand had been living, on the grounds of the abandoned Willowbrook mental hospital.

Rand's court-appointed attorney, Howard Rintel, said Rand refused to speak to anyone or respond to the reading of his rights.

Rand was led from the courtroom after Judge Alan Meyer ordered him to undergo 30 days of psychiatric testing at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. A hearing was set for Sept. 4.

Rand was the prime suspect in the disappearance of Holly Ann Hughes, 7, on July 15, 1981, police sources said. A beat-up, green Volkswagen that Rand once owned was seen in her Port Richmond neighborhood on the evening before the girl vanished, police said.

### Bus trip

Rand, a drifter and sign painter, also is a suspect in the disappearances of Tianease Jackson, 10, on Aug. 13, 1983, and Alice Pereira, 5, on July 10, 1972.

Alice vanished seven months after Rand was released in the Bronx sex case, and Tianease disappeared the day after Rand was released on an unlawful imprisonment conviction for luring 11 youngsters on an unauthorized bus trip to Newark Airport. The bus incident sealed Rand's reputation as a Pied Piper, cops said.

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