

ORDER 30 DAYS OF TESTS



Another portrait emerges

By DAVID J. KRAJICEK
Daily News Police Bureau Chief

Andre Rand, the accused Staten Island kidnaper, shows one personality to acquaintances and an entirely different one to police.

"He never came off as having any disability or mental problems," said Matthew Matejko, a social worker at Project Hospitality, a shelter and soup kitchen where Rand often stopped for supper after chaining his white, three-speed bicycle to a pole outside.

"He was very friendly, very kind, but he was unwilling to offer any background about himself."

"He was very well-read and very articulate," the social worker said. "He didn't like shelters and seemed very happy on his own."

Operated sign-painting business

Rand, who had his own sign-painting business, Sign Art, at the Bay St. Bazaar in the Stapleton section, had been living in a makeshift camp on the overgrown grounds of the abandoned Willowbrook institution.

Rand charged \$5 to paint "pull" and "push" on the doors of Harry and Dorothy Coutros' Souvlaki Junction, a restaurant adjacent to the bazaar.

"He seemed artistic," Dorothy Coutros said. "He was a loner, always by himself. I never thought he could do something like this."

"He might have been a little strange, but no stranger than anyone else you meet," her husband said.

The last time Rand came to the little restaurant was about three weeks ago—about the same time Jennifer Schweiger disappeared. "He'd always order the same thing—three bagels and tea," Helen Coutros said. "It was just like normal. He was friendly, said hello and so forth."

Drools, mumbles and shuffles

Detectives who have dogged Rand since July 9 say he has a different personality when in police custody. He is virtually incommunicative; he drools, mumbles and shuffles his feet.

Rand was born Frank Rushan in Manhattan on March 11, 1944. He changed his name to Rand about 1970, officials said.

Reared in Ithaca, N.Y., he served in the Army during the early 1960s and worked as an attendant at Willowbrook from February 1966 to July 1968. State officials said records revealed nothing about Rand's work record.

His first brush with the law was on May 25, 1969, when he enticed a 9-year-old Bronx girl into his car and drove her to a vacant lot. He removed his clothes and the girl's. A passing radio car interrupted the crime. Charged with attempted rape, Rand pleaded guilty to second-degree sexual abuse and was sentenced to four years. He served 16 months.

He got a job about five years ago driving a bus for the Marshall School, a now-defunct private institution on Staten Island. On Jan. 8, 1983, he drove to a Staten Island YMCA, enticed 11 children into the van and drove to Elizabeth, N.J., where he treated them to White Castle hamburgers, then to Newark Airport, where they watched planes arrive and depart.

On return to the Y five hours later, Rand was charged with unlawful imprisonment. Convicted after a jury trial, he served 10 months in jail. Authorities said he was arrested three times—once for burglary and twice for misdemeanors—but never convicted in the years between the two jail sentences.

NO STRANGER than acquaintances, says verdict of restaurateur Harry Coutros.

JIM HUGHES DAILY NEWS

THREE OTHERS ALSO MISSING

Other missing Staten Island children:

Alice Pereira, 5, disappeared July 10, 1972; lived in Tysens Park Apartments, Tysens Lane and Mill Road, New Dorp.

Holly Ann Hughes, 7, disappeared July 15, 1981; lived on Park Ave. in Port Richmond, not far from Richmond Terrace.

Tiahease Jackson, 10, disappeared Aug. 13, 1983; lived in welfare motel in Mariners Harbor.