

# Suspect met widow at Port Richmond bus stop

By DEAN C. BALSAMINI  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Two years ago, Andre Rand, smitten with a Port Richmond widow he met at a bus stop, wrote the woman a "love letter" that suggested they become a "financial team."

Rand, the accused kidnapper of 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger, courted Edith Kennedy, 60, for several months in 1985 and unsuccessfully tried to move in with her before disappearing.

Jennifer, who has from Down's syndrome, disappeared July 9 near her Wardwell Avenue home in Westleigh. Witnesses last saw the girl walking with Rand on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, on the day she vanished.

Rand was arrested Tuesday and charged with second-degree kidnapping and unlawful imprisonment.

The Advance obtained a copy of the letter from Mrs. Kennedy on Wednesday, and police Thursday confirmed it had been written by Rand.

When Mrs. Kennedy saw the drifter's picture splashed across the front page of the Advance on Wednesday, she was shocked.

"I looked at it (his picture) and

looked at it, and then looked at it with a magnifying glass and said, 'Oh yeah,'" she recalled. "That face — I'll never forget it."

Mrs. Kennedy did not know him as Andre Rand. To her, he was Daniel Fhy, a homeless man who ate baby food, bought his clothes through a catalog, hated cigarette smoke and animals and wanted her son to move out of her apartment — so he could move in.

Mrs. Kennedy was waiting at a Port Richmond bus stop in January 1985 when a man on a bicycle rode by.

"He said 'hi' and asked me for a room and I said, 'There's no apartments up here.'"

"The next day he kept bugging me and bugging me, every day, every day," the woman said. "Then he said, 'Would you please go out with me?' I said 'no.' I knew he was nuts."

But Mrs. Kennedy and her son Richard felt sorry for Rand and invited him upstairs.

"He told me he was lonely," Mrs. Kennedy said.

In a letter dated March 21, 1985, Rand said he believed he and Mrs. Kennedy could "very well wind up surviving as a financial team."

(See LETTER, Page A 10)

# Love letter by accused kidnapper

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE ■ SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1987

The shrill noise of the screeching tires of #4 AND 5 VEHICLES CAUSED MY EYES TO DART IN THAT DIRECTION. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY #3 VEHICLE CAME TO AN ABRUPT HALT, MAKING #1 VEHICLE NOT VISIBLY TO #2 VEHICLE\* APPARENTLY UNTIL THE SEEMINGLY SHORT DISTANCE OF FIVE - EIGHT FEET APPROXIMATION BEFORE POINT OF IMPACT.

— PARKING LOT —

LEGAL DOCUMENTATION: ET AL

Affirmations And Contributing Factors HEREON MAY BE USED IN A COURT OF LAW AS AN EXHIBIT IN THE EVENT OF LEGAL ACTION. AND/OR FILED ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENTS!

MY AFFIDAVIT ATTESTING

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Signed: Andre Rand

This is an excerpt from Andre Rand's detailed description of an auto accident, which he sent to Mrs. Kennedy.