

# Rand surprises crowd

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The overflow crowd that converged on the Stapleton Criminal Court building was surprised by a bearded Andre Rand as the transient stood before the friends and family of Jennifer Schweiger during his court appearance.

Many court spectators noted that the 43-year-old Rand had abandoned his listless behavior for an apparently alert, rigid demeanor.

"(Rand) looked like a normal person, as I believe he is," said Glenna O'Hare, one of the volunteer searchers.

Rand, sporting a full-grown beard — which he was ordered to shave before he appeared in line-ups yesterday — was escorted into the courtroom around 12:30 p.m. He stood erect and expressionless, while his attorney argued.

"If you don't know him good, with this beard you wouldn't recognize him," said Michael Moudatsos, owner of Mike's Souvlaki, a Forest Avenue restaurant frequented by Rand during the past year.

Dendeiarena, were on hand "to be here for this and see him in person."

"It's hard to explain finding yourself here for something like this after so many years," Mrs. Dallas said, clutching a poster bearing Alice Pereira's picture. "I don't know how to react to this."

Alice vanished from a park near her home in the Tysens Apartments in July 1972.

Patty Lonzello, the aunt of

Holly Ann Hughes, another missing Island girl whose disappearance police say may be connected with Rand, was solemn as she sat in the courtroom waiting for Rand to appear. Prior to the hearing, Miss Lonzello met with members of the Pereira family.

Minutes before the court proceedings started, Jennifer's parents, Kenneth and Karen, along with Mrs. Schweiger's cousin, Dennis Wonica, were whisked into



Ken and Karen Schweiger arrive at the courthouse.

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ADVANCE PHOTO/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

the courtroom by detectives Ralph Aquino and Robert Jensen. They were led to reserved seats in the front row.

Rand was brought to the Stapleton courthouse in a heavily armed police motorcade at about 9:45 a.m. A police helicopter circled above the courthouse as a series of marked and unmarked police cars, sirens blaring and overhead lights flashing, coursed along Targee Street signaling Rand's arrival.

Officers armed with shotguns and wearing bulletproof vests hustled Rand in through a side entrance, quickly dodging reporters and curious bystanders.

Wonica and Jennifer's parents held hands and listened with about 150 others, most of whom had waited more than four hours for the case to be heard, as Judge Michael Brennan found Rand fit to stand trial.

Spectators were told to keep their seats during a number of courtroom recesses since nearly 100 people were lined up outside waiting for a chance to get in.

About 30 Guardian Angels who showed up in support of the Schweiger family joined those waiting on the courthouse steps.

Court officers repeatedly warned those in attendance against emotional outbursts or disruptions. Everyone was carefully searched and scanned with a metal detector before being allowed into the building.

"Anyone talking or causing a scene will be ejected and arrested," announced one of the 10 court officers lining the room.

The warning did not prevent members of the audience from expressing disappointment as Jerome Giovinazzo, Rand's attorney, argued with Brennan that his



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Spectators line up as they are searched entering the courthouse.

client not be called on to appear during the proceedings.

Brennan cut through Giovinazzo's motions and called on officers to escort Rand before the bench.

Rand stared straight ahead, rarely blinking. He was wearing blue work pants and black work boots.

His presence shook Mrs. Schweiger. While holding her hand, her husband paid close attention to the proceedings.

Mrs. Schweiger testified Thursday before the grand jury considering an indictment against Rand.

Brennan ordered the results of Rand's psychiatric testing to remain confidential, allowing only the prosecutor and defense attorney to have copies of the report. The results were satisfactory enough to prompt the judge to continue with the court case against Rand.

After 10 minutes, Rand was whisked by armed motorcade to the district attorney's office on Richmond Terrace in St. George. The court had granted a motion by Giovinazzo to have witnesses

against Rand identify the suspected kidnapper in a line-up.

Court officers ordered the crowd to remain seated while the Schweigers were slipped out of the courtroom through a rear doorway.

Before yesterday's hearing, in an interview at their home, the Schweigers expressed hope that the case against Rand would prove successful, and that investigators would be able to find out what became of the other missing girls. They would not comment on the case yesterday, on the advice of the district attorney.

Outside the courtroom, emotions ranged from optimism to hysteria. Fran Aurita, a volunteer searcher, down sobbing and was helped from the courthouse.

"It was fear, total fear," Mrs. Aurita said when asked of the reaction to Rand's appearance in court. "Everybody just held on to each other. We feel like today we have a small victory."

"We are not a lynch mob," said Robert Devine, one of the searchers who found Jennifer's body.