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In bizarre letter, Andre Rand speaks



ADVANCE

Andre Rand

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A copy of a rambling, sometimes bizarre letter written by Andre Rand to his attorney regarding his upcoming trial was mailed to the Advance by the man accused of murdering Jennifer Schweiger, a 12-year-old with Down's syndrome.

Rand wrote that he believes emotion, media propaganda and police tactics will prevent him from receiving a fair trial.

Dated June 27, the three-page letter, dubbed both "Phantasmagoria" and "0-61" was written to West Brighton attorney Jerome V. Giovinazzo.

According to Rand, the correspondence is the first in a "series of letters in sequence to be followed throughout (the) trial in addition to whatever you had in mind!"

Rand, charged with the kidnapping of Jennifer Schweiger, is currently being held in a protective custody unit at Rikers Island.

According to witnesses, the 43-year-old drifter was seen walking with Jennifer near her Westleigh home on July 9, 1987, the date she disappeared. Witnesses said they saw Rand and Jennifer walking hand-in-hand as the pair continued on a route that took them onto the grounds of the for-

mer Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, about a mile from the girl's home.

A massive search followed Jennifer's disappearance in which hundreds of volunteers took part. The girl's body was discovered Aug. 12 in a shallow grave, a short distance from where police said Rand maintained a campsite.

In reference to the July 9 disappearance of Jennifer, Rand stated in the letter: "It would be appropriate to request of the court, to allow the jurors at least a half day or more to set out on an expedition. And too view for themselves the entire course of events which allegedly had taken place.