

# Staten Island Advance

Monday, August 1, 1988

## In bizarre letter, Andre Rand speaks



ADVANCE

Andre Rand

By DEAN C. BALSAMINI  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

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.

Because of a constantly shifting complex succession of things seen or imagined; a scene that constantly changes or fluctuates . . .

The letter continued: "A panoramic view of that picturesque setting should be imbedded into the minds-eye of all jurors so there is nothing left to imagination, which has been such a big part of this case!"

Rand wrote Giovinazzo that "we must iron out technicalities which can be refuted by the prosecution. Mainly: opposing conflicts are sure to become a theory of games as trial progresses . . ."

Rand said arguments on both sides may show that evidence pre-

sented to (the) grand jury was "unconstitutionally irrational, at a time when people were motivated by emotions. Police tactics. And news media propaganda."

He continued that "malicious slander is to be expected," and the Advance has already classified him as being "a schizoid," "pervert," and "retarded," "deliberately provoking prejudice that can never be wiped out of the minds of local residents who will become jurors in this case!"

Rand stated he is portrayed as a "degenerate" by police who are

in "violation of official misconduct."

He continued that the "defendant charges this kind of mischievous jurisprudence in justice is only going to work for the prosecution, for which it was intended!"

Rand concluded in block letters: "A CRUEL SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENCE BY POLICE ON STATEN ISLAND . . ."

Reached for comment, Giovinazzo said he receives letters from Rand periodically, but he wasn't aware a copy of a letter had been sent to the Advance. The attorney said he didn't understand the point of the letter, adding Rand "gets into moods and picks up a pen."