

The kidnap of Jennifer Schweiger: A chronology

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Aug. 5, 1987: In Stapleton Criminal Court, Rand is held without bail and ordered to undergo psychiatric testing to determine if he is fit to stand trial on charges he kidnaped and unlawfully imprisoned Jennifer. He was subsequently found competent to stand trial.

Aug. 8, 1987: Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, visits Jennifer's parents in Westerleigh. "A child like Jennifer has a very special place in my heart," he said. Also helping with the search is a contingent of jungle-seasoned Vietnam veterans.

Aug. 12, 1987: Retired firefighter George Kramer starts digging at a suspicious-looking area of woods on the grounds of the SIDC and finds a body.

Aug. 13, 1987: The naked body found in the shallow grave at SIDC is identified as Jennifer Schweiger. A specialized team of police officers prowls the SIDC grounds looking for clues to the murder. The body was discovered some 500 feet from a campsite once used by Rand.

Aug. 14, 1987: The Friends of Jennifer say they will not disband until they learn of the whereabouts of 7-year-old Holly Ann Hughes of Port Richmond and 10-year-old Tiahease Jackson of Mariners Harbor. Authorities were investigating a possible link to Rand in those disappearances.

Aug. 16, 1987: Rand, undergoing psychiatric tests at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, tells a Daily News reporter he did not kill Jennifer.

Aug. 25, 1987: Police search a second campsite in woods near SIDC thought to be used by Rand. Among things found are a collection of children's toys and dolls senting evidence to a Staten Island grand jury against Rand, according to unidentified sources close to the case. Rand becomes a suspect in the disappearances of 30 people, including 4 Staten Island girls. Investigators singled out the girls rounding each disappearance, including Rand being in the area from which each girl disappeared.

Sept. 4, 1987: Rand's defense lawyer, Jerome Giovannazzo, claims that the driver was not the person seen with Jennifer on the day she disappeared, and that Rand had nothing to do with the murder. Rand is ordered to be held without bail on Rikers Island.

Sept. 8, 1987: Heidi Evans, the Daily News columnist, writes an article about the case.

Sept. 10, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 11, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 12, 1987: Volunteers continue to comb SIDC.

Sept. 13, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 14, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 15, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 16, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 17, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 18, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 19, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 20, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 21, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 22, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 23, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 24, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 25, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 26, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 27, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 28, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Sept. 29, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Sept. 30, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Oct. 1, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Oct. 2, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Oct. 3, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Oct. 4, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Oct. 5, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Oct. 6, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Oct. 7, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Oct. 8, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Oct. 9, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

Oct. 10, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Oct. 11, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

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Oct. 16, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Oct. 17, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

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Oct. 27, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

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Oct. 30, 1987: Rand was described by a social worker as "a shrewd, enterprising loner who avoided talking about his past and de-spised animals."

Oct. 31, 1987: Jennifer Schweiger is found dead in a van and taken to New Jersey for five hours without informing their parents. None of the children was reported injured. An assistant district attorney prosecuting the case said Rand was convicted in the Bronx several years earlier for sexually abusing a minor.

By CRAIG SCHNEIDER
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Page 2



Jennifer Schweiger

News reporter who posed as a "friend" to interview Andre Rand at Kings County Medical Center, is ordered by Supreme Court Justice Norman J. Felig to appear before a Staten Island grand jury. She is ordered to bring with her any notes pertaining to the interview. The Daily News had objected to her appearing, maintaining that the reporter's notes and other information wanted by the grand jury were protected by the Constitution.

Sept. 11, 1987: Rand is officially indicted for kidnapping and causing the murder of Jennifer. Each charge carries with it the identical maximum punishment — 25 years to life in prison.

Sept. 16, 1987: Rand, arriving in court after being beaten by inmates at Rikers Island, enters a plea of innocent. On Oct. 9, volunteer searchers from the Friends of Jennifer group plan to return to SIDC to hunt for evidence against Rand.

Oct. 23, 1987: Giovinazzo, Rand's court-assigned lawyer, claiming that the 43-year-old drifter cannot receive a fair trial on Staten Island because of biased public opinion, moves to have the case tried in another borough. District Attorney William L. Murphy says he will oppose the motion. Later motions by Giovinazzo seek identities of about eight witnesses who say they saw Rand walking with the girl.

Nov. 18, 1987: A four-judge appeals court denies Rand's request to move his trial to another borough. However, the Appellate Division gives Rand permission to renew his application for a change of venue, but only after an attempt has been made to seat a jury on Staten Island.

March 23, 1988: Rand's lawyer challenges "hundreds of pages" of transcripts made from tapes police recorded while the suspect lived with a local clergyman and from later interviews he had with detectives. Giovinazzo contends that the tape recordings are inaudible and therefore inadmissible as evidence.

May 11, 1988: An assistant district attorney says about half of some 50 tape recordings that police made of Rand's conversations and interviews are inaudible and cannot be introduced as evidence at the trial.

June 15, 1988: The kidnap-murder trial is set for early September.

Aug. 16, 1988: Six witnesses are seen picking Rand out of a lineup in videotapes played during pretrial hearings. The witnesses told police they saw Rand walking into SIDC with a girl fitting Jennifer's description on July 9, the day she disappeared.

Aug. 17, 1988: Detective Ralph Aquino of the Staten Island Crimes Against Property squad describes in a pretrial hearing Rand's bizarre behavior after being picked up for questioning in connection with Jennifer's disappearance. Aquino said Rand became alternately catatonic and hysterical after learning police had found his campsite on the grounds of the former SIDC.

Sept. 22, 1988: Jury selection gets underway for the trial (some 700 people were called to be interviewed as jurors); four women and two men are chosen as jurors. On Sept. 28, selection of a jury of eight men and four women is complete.

Oct. 5, 1988: The trial opens with the defense admitting for the first time that Rand and Jennifer were together on the afternoon she vanished. But he was only trying to do a good deed by returning the girl to the SIDC facility, Giovinazzo said, where he thought she had come from. Assistant District Attorney John Loughrey confirms in his opening statement that there is no forensic evidence and that the prosecution's case of circumstantial evidence is anchored on the testimony of a group of seven witnesses who identified Rand as the man they saw

walking with Jennifer on July 9.

Oct. 6, 1988: Seven prosecution witnesses testify at the second day of the trial, including a teen-age former neighbor of Jennifer who said he saw her walking 10 feet behind an "older man" about a block from her home in Westleigh on the afternoon of July 9. But under cross-examination, the witness, David Sheehy, 15, admitted he could not be sure that the man was actually walking with Jennifer.

Oct. 17, 1988: Rand's lawyer hammers away at the circumstances surrounding the discovery of Jennifer's body and the medical examiner's report on the autopsy. But in the end, the retired firefighter who found the body remains unshaken in his account, and a forensic pathologist sticks to her opinion that Jennifer died of asphyxiation, a conclusion reached after the pathologist had signed an autopsy report concluding that the cause of death was undetermined.

Oct. 25, 1988: The trial is handed to the jury. In his closing remarks, Rand's lawyer describes Rand as an "oddball" homeless person who sometimes sleeps in the woods, in cemeteries and parks, and "if he's lucky," in an apartment. But he denied that his client is a kidnapper or a murderer. Assistant District Attorney Loughrey pleaded with the jury not to permit sympathy to enter into its deliberation. If there is sympathy, he said, "don't let it be in favor of the defendant, who made all the decisions on July 9, 1987 ... let it be in favor of this little girl, who had her choices taken from her."

Oct. 26, 1988: Rand is found guilty of kidnapping Jennifer Schweiger. He faces a sentence of 25 years to life in prison. The jury is sequestered for another night to continue deliberating the murder charge. After the decision, Kenneth Schweiger clutches his wife's hand, and volunteer searchers, tears streaming, dash to public telephones to put out word of the partial verdict.

Oct. 27, 1988: The jury reports it is deadlocked on the murder charge, and afterwards the judge dismisses the count under a section of law that bars the prosecution from retrying Rand on the charge. The dismissal ends a five-week trial in which a jury of eight men and four women heard 43 prosecution witnesses and three defense witnesses. The jury had deliberated about 24 hours over a three-day period.