

# Staten Island Adventure

## Rand convicted, but mysteries remain

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The conviction of Andre Rand of the abduction of 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger may close the book on that case, but questions remain about his possible role in the disappearance of three other Staten Island children.

Was the 43-year-old drifter also responsible for the disappearances of Holly Ann Hughes, Alice Pereira and Tiabese Jackson?

Detectives are puzzling over more than two dozen cases of murdered or missing persons, which include those of the three Island girls.

"Those cases are active. They will never close them," said a police detective, who asked to remain anonymous. "That may sound like a cliché, but it's

true."

Investigators have singled out the three girls' cases due to the common thread running through each disappearance: Rand's name has turned up in each case, and he was somehow placed in the area at the time each girl disappeared.

Many of the connections may be coincidental or circumstantial, but one mother said Rand's conviction will "allow her to sleep at night."

### Missing: Alice Pereira

Alice Pereira has been missing for 16 years. Alice was 5 when she vanished from a park near her New Dorp home in 1972. Rand worked as a painter in the Tysens Park Apartments, the girl's residence at the time of her disappearance. The afternoon she disappeared, Alice was playing

with friends in front of her home at 675 Tysens Lane, New Dorp. She disappeared minutes later. Police spoke to Alice's friends, but the children gave contradictory accounts of which direction Alice had gone.

Her disappearance touched off an extensive police investigation that included the FBI and stretched to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. The Peretras have relatives in Puerto Rico and authorities believed Alice might be living with family.

### Police found nothing.

On Jan. 21, 1972, Rand was conditionally released from prison after serving approximately 17 months on a sex abuse charge. He had been convicted of sexually attacking a 9-year-old girl in May 1969.

Alice vanished July 7, 1972.

Following her disappearance police questioned the Tysens Park maintenance crew. Rand was among those questioned.

"It was if the ground had opened up and swallowed her," a veteran detective said during the investigation.

Alice's parents are divorced, but 16 years later her grandmother, Frances Dendararena, still resides in the Tysens Park apartment where the little girl with pigtails once lived. The telephone number remains the same. Mrs. Dendararena still waits for a call from her granddaughter.

### Missing: Holly Ann Hughes

The "beautiful little girl" from Port Richmond

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