

# Witnesses pressured to lie about Abu-Jamal

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
Attorneys for Mumia Abu-Jamal filed new legal papers recently centered on testimony from former Philadelphia police informant Pamela Jenkins. Attorneys say the information gives further proof that police manipulated and pressured witnesses to give false testimony against Abu-Jamal.

Jenkins was the central government informant and witness in the federal investigation which recently led to the conviction of six 39th District officers for gross police corruption.

In a signed statement to Jamal's attorneys in January, Jenkins testified that police Officer Tom Ryan, one of the convicted officers, had pressured her to give false testimony against Jamal in the shooting of police officer Daniel Faulkner.

## Arrest

*(Continued from Page 1)* murdered every day and they follow it for however long and then forget it," she said. "But the family (of the murder victim) never gets a reprieve (from the grief)."

Neither Jeff Turner nor Thompson knew Elliot well, they said. But Jeff Turner said he suspected Elliot had something to do with his mother's disappearance.

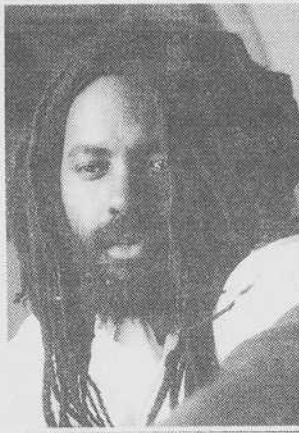
In her affidavit, Jenkins, a former prostitute and girlfriend of Ryan's stated, "Tom Ryan, Richard Ryan and other police officers pressured me and asked me if I had seen the shooting that night. When I said 'no' they pressured me some more and asked me was I really sure that I hadn't been on the street that night and seen the shooting.

"It was clear to me that Tom Ryan and Richard Ryan wanted me to perjure myself and say that I had seen Jamal shoot the police officer," wrote Jenkins.

Jenkins' affidavit further testifies that Cynthia White, the star witness for the prosecution in Jamal's 1982 trial, and the only one to claim to have seen Jamal with a gun in his hand, was also subjected to police coercion.

The legal brief filed with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court reads, "In the days after the shooting, (White) was arrested at least twice for prostitution. Her picture was posted in the Sixth District with instructions for arresting officers to 'Contact Homicide.' Each time police picked White up and took her statement, she revised her story about Faulkner's shooting. Without explanation, bench warrants against her were also not prosecuted.

At a press conference in Philadelphia following the filing of the new defense



ABU-JAMAL

papers, Jamal's lead attorney, Leonard Weinglass, argued that Jenkins' testimony "adds to the testimony already given by Veronica Jones about police intimidation and by witness William Singletary, [and] calls for a new trial without further hearing, and in accordance with the doctrine of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, even mandates an absolute dismissal of the case against Mumia."

Further, Jones at the press conference made a public plea for White to come forward and tell the truth.

"We know we can bring this down to a nutshell if you just come forward. We've all lost a lot by coming forward. I've lost somebody I love dearly...Just do this one time, one favor, that's not asking a lot. Then maybe you can clean up your past, like the rest of us are doing," Jones said.

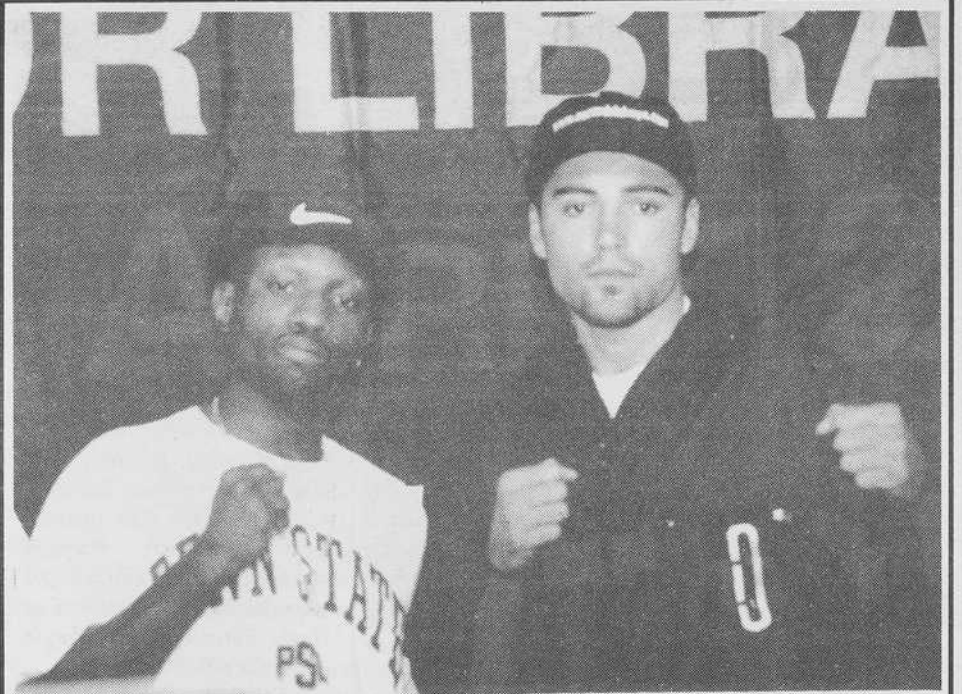


Photo by Jonathan Olsen/Front Row Photos

## Megafight at Thomas and Mack

WBC welterweight champion Pernel Whitaker, left, is a 3-to-1 underdog in his fight against Oscar De La Hoya this Saturday night. De La Hoya, 23-0, is the WBC super lightweight champion and will move up in weight to challenge Whitaker. The 40-1-1 Whitaker said he is being underestimated and anticipates a great fight.

## Action needed to increase Internet access

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**

A lack of facilities and equipment will make it impossible for many African-American students to gain access to the treasures of the information superhighway, according to presenters during a recent teleconference in San Francisco, CA.

Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL) pointed out that many schools do not even have the electrical circuits to support computer terminals.

Moseley-Braun was there seeking support for her new bill to bring \$5 billion in federal funds for the necessary school renovations, with half the funds targeted for the 100 school districts with the highest percentage of poor children.

"Computers are now the equivalent of what books were in my generation," she said.

Jeanne Hayes, president of Quality Education Data Inc. of Denver, presented findings on the disparity of technology resources at the 4,700 schools with 75 percent or more African-American students.

She noted a 14 percent higher computers to students ratio than the general school population and that a third of the schools have no media specialist (librarian).

Michael "Chappie" Grice, president of the National Council for Educating Black Children, and James McGhee, president of the African-American Parents Coalition, urged parents to insist that their students get the latest technology or otherwise they will be completely left out of the 21st century.

Books'n'Bytes, the technology alliance for African-American students, is seeking thousands of volunteers to wire targeted schools on NetDay 2000 Saturday, April 19 and to be ongoing advocates for technological and library improvements for their students. For more information call John Templeton at (415) 289-6977.

## Arrington

*(Continued from Page 1)*

during an interview with the Sentinel-Voice.

In April 1996, McKinney-Arrington said she fell over a secretary's briefcase and broke her arm in three places. McKinney-Arrington said she confided in Rice who later violated her right to privacy by divulging her health history with other employees.

McKinney-Arrington said she has undergone six of the seven surgeries needed to reconstruct her shoulder. She is scheduled to return to work by the end of May.

The suit is presently under an investigatory review.

In the meantime, she also plans to file a civil suit and request a right-to-sue-letter, which is a federal complaint.

Clark County School Superintendent Brian Cram declined comment on the case citing its ongoing investigation.

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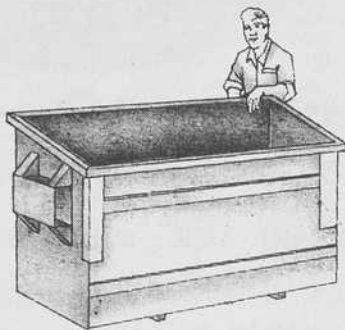
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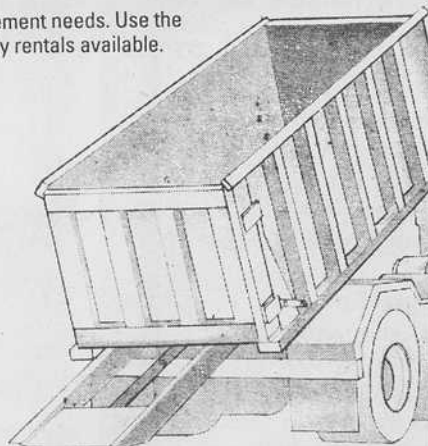
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