

MAY 24 1972

# A Witness Expert in Angela Trial

SF Examiner  
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SAN JOSE — A psychology professor whom the defense wants accepted as an expert on the reliability of eyewitness identifications was scheduled to resume the witness stand in the Angela Davis trial today.

Prosecutor Albert W. Harris Jr. indicated he may want to challenge the legality of the proposed testimony of Dr. Robert H. Buckhout, associate professor of psychology at California State College at Hayward.

The professor indicated in preliminary testimony yesterday that accurate eyewitness identifications are difficult to obtain.

He has apparently been called to discredit prosecution witnesses who placed Miss Davis with Jonathan Jackson at the Marin Civic Center Aug. 6, 1970, and at San Quentin Prison Aug. 4, 5, and 6.

The state claims she and Jonathan Jackson planned to kidnap a judge as ransom for the release of Soledad Brother George Jackson, a prisoner at San Quentin.

Their motive was love, according to Harris, Jonathan was his brother and Miss

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Davis was George's passionate correspondent.

Jonathan Jackson, Superior Judge Harold Jo Haley and two convicts were killed in a shootout following the kidnap of the judge Aug. 7, 1970. Four guns owned by Miss Davis were used by young Jackson.

Defense witnesses have implied Jonathan Jackson stole those guns and have testified that Miss Davis was in San Francisco and Berkeley with them when prosecution witnesses say she was at the Marin Civic Center and San Quentin Prison with young Jackson.

#### Federal Grant

Dr. Buckhout said he is currently conducting a study titled "Social and Perceptual Factors in Eyewitness Identifications," under a federal grant.

The professor, who said he has twice been qualified as an expert on eyewitness identifications in criminal trials, gave a brief outline of his theory:

"Recognition and identification is a decision making process, dealing with vague and ambiguous situations."

"The person making the identification has two goals

— a desire to be correct and a desire to live up to the expectations of the people asking the questions . . .

#### Social Beings

"These limitations, plus the fact that the person making the decision is a social being, tend to get in the way of making a very accurate report."

Defense Attorney Howard Moore Jr. asked that the professor be accepted as an expert witness, but Harris objected that he was given Buckhout's name the day before but only learned the subject of his testimony yesterday.

The proposed testimony raises "serious legal questions," he said, asking for time to research the legal issue. Judge Richard B. Aranson ordered Buckhout's testimony delayed until this morning.

#### Phone Number

The defense tried to undermine another section of the prosecutor's case yesterday afternoon by suggesting the telephone number on a slip of paper found in Jonathan Jackson's wallet after his death was not the number of a pay telephone booth at San Francisco International Airport.

The prosecution implied



ELLEN BROMS

Dinner with Angela

—Sketch by Don Juhlin

Miss Davis was near that booth Aug. 7, waiting for word from Jonathan Jackson so she could coordinate the taking of a plane for the escape of the band of kidnapers.

James J. Finnegan, the Pacific Telephone Co. investigator who testified for the prosecution that the number was that of a phone booth at the airport, was recalled yesterday to testify that the same number was used in the Los Angeles area, Jackson's home territory.

From May until July 30, 1970, that was the number of a Rome Kasnikowski in Huntington Park, Finnegan said. Service to the number was discontinued because of an unpaid bill, he said.

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