

## Jury begins deliberations in tow-truck carjacking trial

A federal court jury began deliberations yesterday in the carjacking trial of two men accused in the April 9, 2002, shoot-out with two tow-truck drivers hired by the FBI to haul two Mercedes-Benz autos concealing \$852,000 in drug money.

The 12 jurors in the trial of Chad Johnson, 27, of Philadelphia, and Jimmy Brown, 27, of the Bronx, N.Y., deliberated about two hours after closing arguments by prosecution and defense lawyers as well as instructions from U.S. District Judge Legrome D. Davis. The jury will resume deliberations this morning.

Johnson and Brown, who did not testify in their defense, are accused of accompanying Fernando Sanchez, 28, also of the Bronx, in the failed attempt to steal the two Benzes and the hidden cash.

Sanchez pleaded guilty and was a key witness against the pair in the trial, which began March 22. Sanchez testified how they followed the FBI-hired tow trucks to Third and Spring Garden Streets, where the three stopped the trucks and tried to commandeer them. The ensuing shoot-out left Sanchez, two drivers and a passerby wounded.

## March 30, 2004

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