

## ' 82 MURDER CASE REVIVES YOUNG BOYS LEGACY

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, July 26, 1988

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Dwayne Davis was gunned down in a September 1982 ambush that police said was part of the guerilla warfare waged by the notorious **Young Boys Inc.** to control Detroit's illicit drug trade in the early 1980s.

But the shooting at Columbus and Lawton -- seemingly little different from dozens of other drug-related gun deaths in the city that year -- may hold the key to a permanent lockup for leaders and enforcers of the now-crippled YBI.

Recently charged with first-degree **murder** and facing trial for the Davis shooting are YBI boss Milton (Butchie) Jones and his reputed gunmen, called the Wrecking Crew -- Curtis (Kurt McGurk) Napier, Keith (Keithon) Green and Maurice Gibbs.

The **murder case** , according to authorities, defense lawyers and investigative reports, will be a brutal tale of greed, betrayal and the ruthless exercise of raw life-and-death power.

The preliminary examination of Green and Gibbs in Detroit's 36th District Court was adjourned last Friday until next month by Judge R. Patrick Donahue to let defense lawyers prepare and to get Napier and Jones back from prisons where they are serving other sentences.

While local and federal authorities have long thought that Jones and his underlings were responsible for numerous killings, none has been convicted of a first-degree **murder** charge, which in Michigan means mandatory life in prison with no parole.

The Davis **case** , officials hope, will change that.

According to witnesses' statements to police, Davis was leader of the H20 Crew, a small drug gang loosely affiliated with the YBI network, and looking for new outlets for Magic, Uno, Hocus-Pocus and Pac Man brands of heroin.

Davis showed a certain marketing flair, said people familiar with the operations, introducing a "Freak of the Week" deal to stimulate sales of new heroin brands. "It was a buy-one, get- one-free deal" in which dealers passed out a chit with each bag sold that could be redeemed for another bag, said one lawyer familiar with YBI and the 1980s heroin scene.

Davis and several lieutenants, traveling from their Cascade Street home base in a Jeep caravan, began scouting the Lawton-Columbus area for a likely place to open a drug operation -- "to put down a spot," a witness told police.

But, witnesses said, Napier, a teenager who was soon to be tagged Detroit's Public Enemy No. 1 by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, was selling **Young Boys** ' P-Funk heroin in the neighborhood and confronted Davis and his crew.

A witness said Napier asked Davis: "Did you talk to that fella?" wanting to know if Davis had Jones' approval to move into the area.

Davis said he didn't have to ask anyone's approval to move into any area except Martindale Street, Jones' home base, just as Napier "can't come on Cascade," the H20 stronghold, a witness said.

Napier, taking exception to Davis' daring free-trade policy, ended the session by repeating that Columbus-Lawton was his, witnesses said.

The next day Davis and several cohorts returned to the disputed territory looking for an abandoned house from which to run sales, witnesses said.

The H20 interlopers barely made it to the corner before a group of men ran from an apartment building and opened fire on them, witnesses said.

Davis' companions, abandoning their parked Jeeps, fled on foot or in taxis, making their way back to safer territory where they learned Davis was dead, some of the survivors told police.

Key to the prosecution's **case** linking Jones and the others to the planning and the killing is former YBI insider turned paid government informant, Kevin (Lughead) Wilson, described by a senior federal official as one of Jones' henchmen.

Wilson pleaded guilty to federal drug charges in 1983 and soon entered the federal witness protection program.

"He got religion," a former federal official said. Both Wilson and his **younger** brother have been co-operating with authorities since then.

"He was there before the federal grand jury five or six times. He testified against" drug gang lawyer Otis Culpepper, said Gibbs' lawyer, Domnick Sorise. "He's here, he's there, he's everywhere. I wouldn't be surprised if he showed up against Oliver North."

Wilson supplied information that led to the second federal wave of **Young Boy** indictments handed down last year and the resulting **murder cases** being brought in Detroit courts.

The **younger** Wilson was the key witness in the 1987 first-degree **murder** conviction of James Earl Butler, another YBI enforcer.

In the Culpepper tax evasion trial, Kevin Wilson testified he passed \$50,000 from Jones to Culpepper to pay off a local judge. U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn, who heard the **case** without a jury, convicted Culpepper, but said he found that Wilson's testimony was not credible.

Nevertheless, officials believe he was there when killings were ordered and carried out.

Assistant Prosecutor Robert Hood summed up his **case** : "Wilson's our witness."

CUTLINE:

YBI boss Milton (Butchie) Jones, left, and one of his reputed gunmen, Curtis (Kurt McGurk) Napier, right, are facing trial in the 1982 ambush slaying of Dwayne Davis.

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Caption: Photo

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 4A;

Index Terms: DETROIT ; YOUNG BOYS INC. ; HOMICIDE

Record Number: 8802020232

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