

'SEAL' RIVALED BIG BUSINESS, PROBERS SAY

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Until Tuesday, **Sylvester** (Seal) **Murray** allegedly was one of the top leaders of an organization with estimated gross annual revenues of about \$400 million , just short of placing it among the nation's 500 biggest firms.

However, unlike the Maytag Co., home-appliance manufacturers, or Prentice-Hall, a publishing house, both with comparable annual sales , Young Boys Inc. can never hope to make the Fortune 500, and 30-year-old **Murray** will probably never be profiled in Business Week.

In fact, until a federal grand jury this week named **Murray** as the chief heroin supplier of Young Boys Inc., he had apparently never been mentioned in a single newspaper article.

That low profile changed Tuesday when a federal magistrate set **Murray** 's bond at \$10 million cash, breaking all records at the federal court in downtown Detroit.

During that bail hearing, **Murray** seemed more reflective than worried. His large glasses and lanky frame gave him the appearance of a studious young man.

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS said **Murray** has lived in Detroit all his life, and court records indicate he has at least two sisters and a brother. Until several years ago, when the family dispersed, it regularly attended Holy Cross Baptist Church. The church is within view of the corner of Linwood and Nebraska, which, according to the indictment that charged **Murray** and 40 others, is a prime Young Boys sales location.

A Young Boys member told police that **Murray** claimed to have been a drug dealer since the age of 14. A social worker living on the near west side not far from the **Murray** family home on Clements said that while he had never known **Murray** , he had been aware since 1969 of a reputed local drug dealer named "Seal."

Others had quite different perceptions. A classmate at Northwestern High School remembered **Murray** as a bright student who was somewhat a loner.

A social acquaintance who met **Murray** only a few years ago said that while he knew **Murray** was wealthy, he thought **Murray** was a legitimate businessman. The acquaintance, who shook his head in disbelief at **Murray** 's arrest, described **Murray** as a likable person. "If he was here ," the acquaintance said, "he would sit right down and join the conversation."

WHILE **MURRAY** enjoyed expensive cars -- Mercedes Benzes, Cadillacs and Corvettes -- and clothes, his favorite recreation was playing guard in pickup basketball games on neighborhood courts, the acquaintance said.

He also said he had seen members of Young Boys at parties "wearing track suits and gold" and never would have dreamed they worked for **Murray** .

Those interviewed agreed **Murray** would have been a successful businessman no matter what the enterprise, and on transcripts of wiretapped phone conversations , **Murray** refers to "my business head."

Among **Murray** 's properties listed by the government is a home in the 24000 block of Manistee in Oak Park. A neighbor said the former owners told her they were approached by the present owner "with cash in a suitcase at night." The former owners insisted on being paid for the house by check, the neighbor said. Several other neighbors confirmed the report

Murray also lived in another house in the 19000 block of Nadol in Southfield. Southfield police reported on March 3, 1981, they were called to the house by Darlene Davis, who said she was **Murray** 's girlfriend. Davis reported that **Murray** had hit her and cut her lip in a dispute over the ownership of the house, police said.

Apparently, no official action was taken other than the confiscation of a loaded .357 Magnum handgun and a .38-caliber handgun that **Murray** told the police he owned. In fact, **Murray** has no record of any felony criminal convictions, although Detroit police records show two 1979 arrests for carrying a concealed weapon and a controlled substance. According to federal court records, the disposition of those cases is unrecorded.

INFORMANTS TOLD authorities that not only did **Murray** own real estate ranging from suburban homes to inner-city party stores and a car wash, but he also had an impressive collection of women and cars. One informant reported to police that when **Murray** learned he was under investigation, he was worried because he "could not justify his expensive cars, which were being purchased by his girlfriends who were on welfare."

Murray traveled extensively within the United States, authorities report. Federal agents conducted hundreds of wiretaps on Young Boys conversations, and one of them gives a glimpse of the pace of his travels . On that wiretap, **Murray** reportedly said, "I had to stop in Chicago a couple of days . . . I left tonight. I'm supposed to be in L.A., man, but I had to wait on some people."

Prosecutors claim many of the trips were drug runs, including one to Los Angeles in which **Murray** allegedly arranged for the purchase of four pounds of brown heroin from Mexico, according to court documents.

At his bail hearing, prosecutors described **Murray** as a millionaire who had a casual attitude about sums of money others would consider to be a fortune. As an example, they said, in a raid earlier this year, **Murray** said he had \$80,000 in a safe, but he hadn't opened it for so long -- two years -- that he had forgotten the combination. .

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