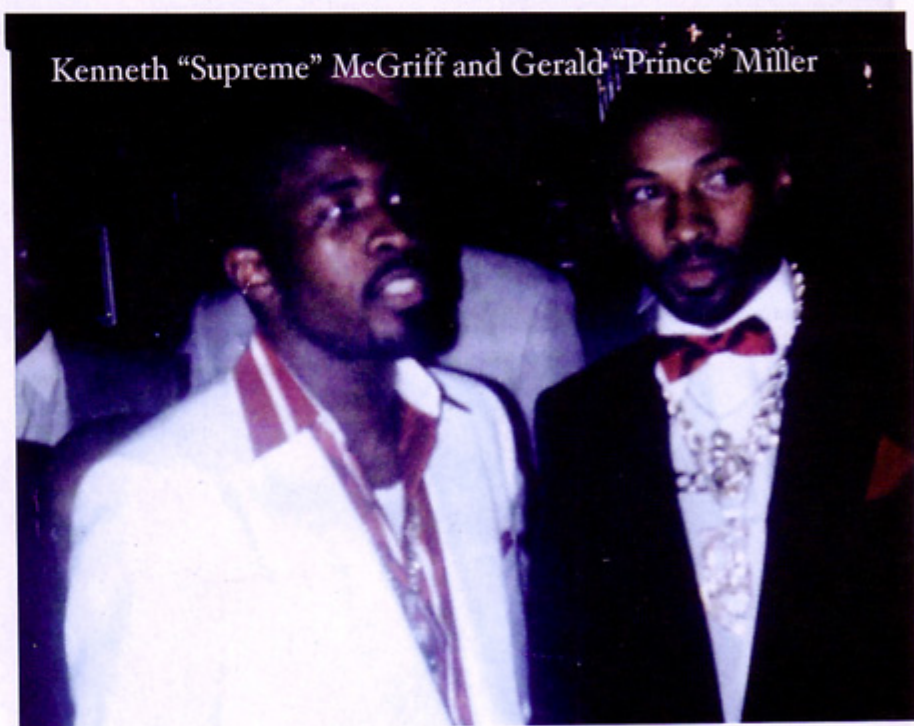


# +SUPREME TEAM

WORDS BY TIFFANY CHILES  
AND SOULMAN SETH

*There were many street legends born in that constant hail of gunfire that was the 1980s during New York's thriving crack era.*



Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff and Gerald "Prince" Miller

**S**outhside Queens was making history long before rappers like Curtis Jackson, a.k.a 50Cent and his G-Unit, became mainstream. Today, kids all over the world know about Southside Queens, in New York because of all of the recognition that 50Cent gives it by reppin' his hood and associating himself with its deep roots into the black underworld. But the Southside of Queens began making history with the birth of its street legends and urban gangsters in the 70's and 80's.

When the crack era in New York was jumping off in the 1980's a lot of street legends were born in a hail of gunfire. Business minded dudes seized the opportunities afforded and certain individuals out of the city's five boroughs of New York became synonymous with the definition of

the new era black gangsta. Characters and cliques that seemed to evolve straight out of the pages of a Donald Goines novel rose to prominence becoming larger than life figures and ghetto stars in their respective hoods. Just like Hollywood catapulted the Mafia into the mainstream with the Godfather movies, the movie New Jack City documented the devastating crack epidemic and the drug crews that terrorized and held court in the city's projects.

Nino Brown was a fictional character as was his crew but you didn't have to look very far to find their real life counterparts who dominated the headlines of New York's papers. Drugs, murder, kidnappings, shootings, more drugs and more murder were the rule of the day. They called it the game but in reality it was a vicious attempt to come up and survive by any means necessary. In the late 80's the mindset was get mine or be mine and rumor has it nobody embodied this attitude more than a crew out of the Southside of Queens, New York, who have become known as the Supreme Team, the most legendary street gang of its time. Street tales, real life crimes, newspaper headlines, Hollywood sensationalism

and rappers rhymes have perpetrated, promoted and created a legend of mythical proportions that has grown exponentially over the last 20 years keeping the Supreme Team name ringing bells from coast to coast. As one of the most notorious crews from a deadly era the team towers above its contemporaries in stature, notoriety and infamy. But it's not all hype. Infamy has its price.

What has become known as the Supreme Team was a crew organized in the early 1980's in the vicinity of the Baisley Park Houses, one of the smallest public housing developments in Jamaica, Queens New York by a group of teenagers who were members of a quasi-religious sect known as the "Five Percenters", court documents say. Under the leadership of Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff, with Gerald "Prince" Miller his nephew, as second in command, the gang allegedly concentrated its criminal efforts on wide-spread distribution of crack cocaine. According to law enforcement at its 1987 peak, the Supreme Teams receipts

outs with two-way radios on rooftops. The sophistication of the gangs operation enables it to survive the periodic targeting of various members for prosecution by the NYPD and the Queens County District Attorneys Office. But like other hood stars of the age the team wasn't immune from the feds who would eventually take them down.

It is alleged that back in the day Queens was a notorious breeding ground for brutal progressive thinking gangstas. Fat Cat, Pappy Mason, Tommy Montana, The Corley Brothers, The Feurtado Brothers and Hymee all hailed from the Southside. But the two most infamous cats out of Jamaica were Supreme and Prince. They are alleged to have led a team that was said to be over 200 deep and rivaled the Mafia in structure. The notoriety of Supreme is well publicized and his transformation from gangsta to hip-hop icon and rap maestro has been well documented as has the feds blatant vendetta against the man. Supreme and Murder Inc Records (home of Ja'Rule and Ashanti) are now in the first

stages of overcoming the governments latest and boldest assault on the rap industry since they tried to unsuccessfully take down Death Row records in the mid 90's. The feds just can't stand it when a gangsta goes legit. Its okay for the Kennedy's but when a black man goes legit it's a federal crime. But there is another story to be told, one that centers around Supremes' nephew Prince who is doing 7 life sentences in the federal prison system.

At the time the papers called the heir apparent Prince, Mr. Untouchable because he was like the Teflon Don, John Gotti, nothing would stick. Everybody heard the raps, read the newspaper headlines and the magazine articles but what was the Supreme Team really about? What was the real story? You know Don Diva keeps it real and after contacting both Supreme and Prince- who gave us their blessings but must remain silent due to on going legal issues, we are bringing the truth that lies inside the media madness. Two men who have been buried in the belly of the beast for the last 15 years and 13 years respectively-meet, ex-Supreme Team members Ronald Tucker aka Tuck and Waverly "Teddy" Coleman- take us back to Jamaica Queens circa 1986.

The working class neighborhoods of South Jamaica, St Albans and Hollis lie in the 103rd and 113th precincts which are a 4.8 sq mile perfect box encompassing Van Wyck Expressway to the west, Hillside Ave to the north, Francis Lewis Boulevard to the east

and a jagged line that runs along the 110th Ave to the south. Around 125,000 people live within its borders, 62% percent of them black.

**Don diva:** *Before you became down with the Team- what was your future looking like?*

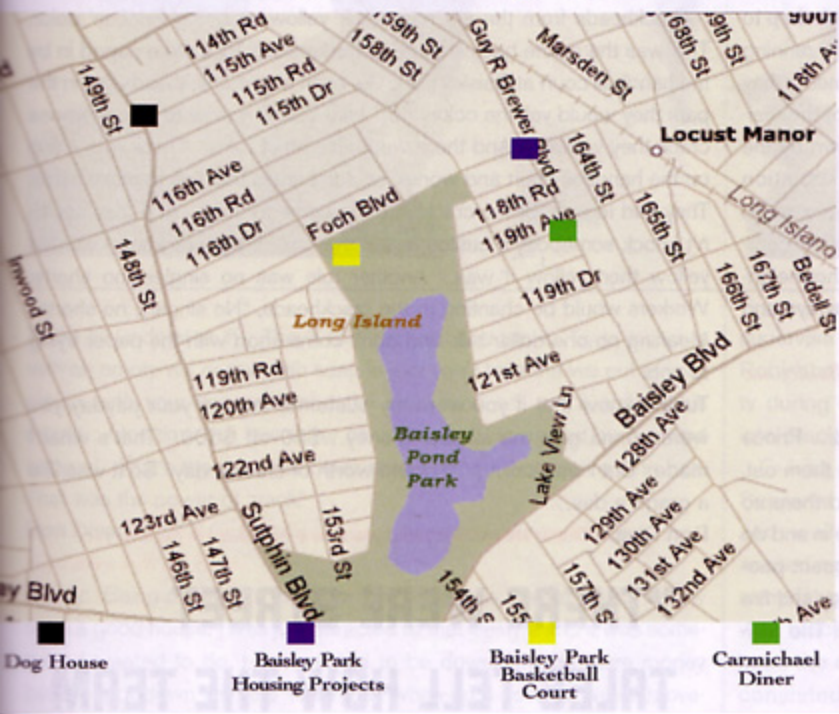
**Tuck:** I was in high school working at D'Agostinos. It's a famous supermarket. I was a delivery guy. Seventeen years old and delivering groceries to fucking people. I lived next door to my man, Black Born. We were walking to the store one day and this God Bishme told us about Prince coming home. He said he was trying to put the team back together. I had never heard of a Supreme Team before that- I lived in Jamaica all my life.

**Don Diva:** *When did you first meet Prince?*

**Tuck:** I met Prince in June 1986, almost 19 years ago in front of Baisley

## Southside-Jamaica, Queens, New York

### The area the Supreme Team allegedly operated in



exceeded \$200,000 a day and the gang regularly committed acts of violence and murder to maintain its stronghold on the areas drug trade, court documents continue. Newspaper accounts say Gerald "Prince" Miller inherited the leadership of the Supreme Team in 1987 when his uncle Supreme was arrested, charged as a kingpin and ultimately sentenced to a twelve year prison term in a federal penitentiary. Prince solidified his control by increasing the security force and employing it against rivals and against team members suspected of disloyalty.

The Supreme Teams narcotics operation used dozens of employees, including layers of drug sellers to insulate the gang leaders from the street-level activity, court documents relate. Team members communicated in coded language and numerical systems. To thwart law enforcement efforts further, Prince used armed bodyguards and deployed look-

Projects. I went from making 100 dollars a week at the grocery store to a thousand dollars a day. I was selling hand to hand, a worker. I was seventeen and didn't have any goals. I thought I could sell drugs forever. But forever is a mighty long time... I chose to make the streets a part of my life. I lacked guidance in the form of a father figure so I looked to the street for that which I couldn't find at home. Prince became somewhat of a father figure to me. Someone I could look up to.

**Don Diva:** *Where exactly did you hustle at- did you really take over the whole housing projects?*

**Tuck:** Baisley Park...That's where I hustled at. Five buildings, 8 floors in each building. This was where I ate. It seemed like the team controlled everything in Jamaica...From Liberty Ave and 171, 115th and Sutphin Blvd, to 121 which is several blocks. It was crazy.

Under the red-brick towers of Baisley projects, an around the clock crack cocaine trade that operated more like a corporation than a drug outfit prospered selling 25,000 crack vials a week, according to newspaper accounts.

When you aren't from the projects that projects have a menacing connotation, to its residence it is nothing less than home. Drugs and drug dealing seem to be a part of most housing projects but how could one of New York's smallest housing projects allegedly been the back drop to so much violence and mayhem. If the Supreme Team was really running Baisley- what was it like for the residence? According to the media they were being terrorized and held hostage. According to many of the residence we spoke to, they were being protected and held down by the Supreme Team. A.U. Hogan, Baisley Park Housing Association president, recounts how individuals like Preme and Prince sponsored sports programs for the neighborhood kids and helped many of the community residents out when they were in financial trouble. Other neighbors relay stories of the Supreme Team funding turkey giveaways and bus trips for the kids to amusement parks.

**Don Diva:** *What was the relationship like between the residents of Baisley and the Team?*

**Teddy Coleman:** The Team paid rents, bought people food... Prince himself would take \$3000 in dollar bills every week and give them out. We were like family to the people in the projects. We stayed there so much that we related to everyone. No other crew would come in and do anything stupid. We treated the residents with respect. Innocent people weren't getting hurt. You couldn't come over here to Baisley and fire shots or do dumb shit. That type of stuff just didn't happen. The residents knew if we were out there- there was order.

**Don Diva:** *What was your relationship with Prince like?*

**Tuck:** I don't think Prince and I ever had a friendship. I believe it was all business. I do know that most people would rather have Prince on their team then opposing him. Prince is a real good dude...Very well respected and feared too. He was highly motivated, very organized and extremely intelligent. A real master at gamesmanship.

**Teddy:** Prince and I had a business relationship and a friendship. I believe business eventually ruined our friendship but I know Prince the way most don't. Prince was not the monster that the government and the media tried to make him out to be. The Team just got so infamous that anything that happened in the hood was blamed on us. If someone got stabbed all the way over in Queens Bridge- The Team would get the blame. It just got crazy. Prince was never the monster they proclaim. Media portrayed us as people that preyed on our own kind. We didn't hold people hostage or terrorize anyone...if a drug dealer got terrorized that is a part to of the game. We weren't monsters. A lot of the things

they said we did we didn't do. Prince's BMW wasn't bullet proof- that was a lie. Prince got blamed for a lot of stuff but never the good stuff. People rallied behind him when he went to trial to support him. Ordinary people respected him.

**Don Diva:** *What was Preme like?- it is commonly said that Preme was the businessman and hood politician.*

**Tuck:** Preme is a dude who will rationalize, talk it out. He's very diplomatic and charismatic. I remember Supreme as someone who always was spoken of highly. I don't know if it was out of fear or respect. But usually when people spoke that name they were speaking of something greater than themselves.

**Teddy:** Preme is not the bad guy he is made out to be, he owned businesses before dudes were even thinking about it. He used to own a neighborhood store- he used to give away more food and diapers than he sold. People always hear the bad but the good is never mentioned.

**Don Diva:** *What was a day like as a member of the Team in your position?*

**Tuck:** I started off selling hand to hand to the crackheads. The team used a color coded system for the vials of crack. Each color signified whose cocaine it was. A color for every Lieutenant of the organization- yellow, orange, red and blue. I had yellow.

Crackheads from the era remember yellow as being Princes' color. This was the scene back in the day- workers like Tuck were caged in by the handball court at Baisley Park. As soon as the crackheads got in the park they would yell the colors out. Like Yellow, yellow to signify whose crack they wanted. And there were also strict rules. There was a line on the handball court and worker couldn't cross that line to make sales. They had to wait for the crackheads to come to them. And they couldn't knock somebody's customer out the box. If the crackhead wanted yellow then yellow it was. Another rule was no singles, no shorts. Workers would be chanting to the crackheads, "No singles, no shorts." Meaning no one dollar bills and don't come short with the paper trying to cop.

**Tuck:** I knew that if you were my customer that on your payday you were gonna give me all your money...\$50 off \$500. That's what I made. But I was selling 10 grand worth of crack a day. So it was like a grand a day...

**Don Diva:** *What is the craziest thing you seen a crackhead do for their fix?*

**"THERE WERE STREET TALES TELL HOW THE TEAM KEPT THE WHOLE AREA IN CHECK. WHENEVER SUPREME WENT TO PRISON PRINCE WAS THE BOSS. AND WHEN THE FEDS GOT SUPREME IT WAS PRINCES SHOW"**



**Tuck:** All kinds of stuff...They'll take the joint and tap it. Try to switch it with an empty vial or one with soap in it or you'll take the vial out of your mouth with your spit on it and the crackhead will put it right in his mouth...One time this bus driver came to cop. He parked his bus and copped. That's the illest shit I ever seen. People were still on the bus. That was the power of crack."

**Don Diva:** *Do you think living in or around the project environment influenced you to get down with the Team?*

**Teddy:** Being down with the Supreme Team was a status thing. I grew up in a good house. I was just attracted to that lifestyle and it was something I wanted to do. I just wanted to be down. I made more money before I got down with the Team then when I got down. It was a movement that I wanted to be a part of. There was a level of respect that the Team commanded and that the Team earned that was intoxicating.

**Tuck:** If the drugs weren't in the community Jamaica Queens could have been a beautiful place to live. But drugs were easy to get and made fast money. As a seventeen year old my thoughts were; why go to school when I'm making more money than the chairman of the Board of Education?

Prince was considered by law enforcement officials to be one of the most violent drug dealers in the city during the 1980's. Court documents say the gang under Prince included Wilfredo "C-Just" Arroyo as second in command, Harry "Big C" Hunt as Prince's bodyguard, Ernesto "Puerto Rican Righteous" Piniella as head of security and Roy "Pookie" Hale, Shannon Jimenez and Julio Hernandez as security workers. Tucker and Teddy Coleman managed retail spots and supervised crews of workers; long time gang member David "Bing" Robinson helped to

supervise the drug operations and kept records. Raymond "Ace" Robinson assisted in arranging cocaine purchases, provided security during drug transactions, supervised the processing of cocaine into crack and delivered crack to sales locations.

C-Just, Big C, Pookie, Ace and Shannon were allegedly the Supreme Team security team. The security team had a fearsome and well-deserved reputation in the hood and they dressed accordingly. Tales from the late 80's Queens' natives claim the army fatigue look was a Supreme Team signature. Their war gear was black fatigues and jackets, bulletproof vests, black timbs and hats, the drawstring joints or baseball caps. And their weaponry consisted of AR-15's, Mac-10's, Nines, 45's, 357's, Tech's-you name it, they had it. And when they were on a mission shit got crazy. They would be jumping out of mini-vans like a taskforce. And when dudes on the block saw them they'd start running and scrambling praying that the team wasn't coming for them.

Tuck, Bing and Teddy were known as the moneymen. Bing, according to court documents was arrested with Supreme on a 1985 case and when he got released in 89 he got down with Prince. Teddy and Tuck were the youngsters of the team who rose up through the ranks from workers, according to court documents, to Lieutenants who ran spots. Bing, Tuck and Teddy were the ones bringing in the paper. They all had their own crews and were making crazy money themselves and for the team.

**Don Diva:** *What was it like being only 17 years old and being responsible for bringing in the money for the crew?*

**Teddy:** We [Teddy and Tuck] looked at it as an honor. We were



Ronald "Tuck" Tucker

young so we were loyal and we would never compromise and take money because we were kids. Someone older might have done something else. We were very loyal.

**Tuck:** I had no foresight to say I'm gonna make a certain amount of money and get out of this. Selling drugs is like an addiction. The dealer is just like the fiend. The dealer is addicted to the money. Just like the fiend is addicted to the drugs.

A Queens native sums up the whole era and what it was all about, "Drug dealing, killing, more drug dealing, more killing, cops getting murdered, parole officers getting murdered for violating niggas, crooked police getting paid off, police issuing beat downs, families getting murdered because other family members are testifying in court, you know, basic hood shit."

**O**n February 26, 1988, New York City police officer Edward Byrne was shot and killed while protecting a witness in a drug case that was allegedly going to testify against local drug lords. Officer Byrne was parked in a marked patrol car when two suspects approached him. One of the suspects knocked on the passenger window to distract him as the second suspect ran up to him the driver's window and opened fire, striking him in the head five times. Two additional suspects served as lookouts. The four suspects were members of Lorenzo "Fat Cat" Nichols crew and were allegedly instructed to kill a police officer. The four were apprehended and sentenced to 25 years to life.

Lorenzo "Fat Cat" Nichols, the head of a drug gang known as the Bebobs allegedly supplied Gerald "Prince" Miller and the Supreme Team with Cocaine in their early days in the game. The two crews are said to have ruled the cocaine and crack business in the 1980's in Queens,

according to media sources. While running a \$20 million drug empire with his family, Nichols along with his right hand man, Pappy Mason were accused of ordering the murder of his parole officer and the four members of their gang were convicted of killing Police Officer Edward Byrne. Most of the Bebobs are serving long prison sentences on murder and drug charges. Fat Cat entered the witness protection program when he plead guilty in 1989 to murder and racketeering. He agreed to cooperate with federal investigators in exchange for leniency for his elderly mother. Pappy Mason, stood up and is serving a LIFE sentence in federal prison.

Prompted by the February 26, 1988 murder of Officer Edward Byrne and the other drug related violence predominately coming from Queens, the Tactical Narcotics Team or TNT was formed. The TNT was a joint effort of various state government agencies through-out New York City. The TNT would be the first to employ the concerted resources of many state government agencies to combat crime. TNT covered the 103rd, 105th, 106th and 113th precincts-22 miles of Southeastern Queens. Locals said that once you crossed the tracks into Baisley projects it was a war zone or at least it was back then- TNT task force agreed. After



Teddy Coleman



Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff and Ronald "Tuck" Tucker  
Federal Correctional Institute Gilmer

**"THE SUPREME TEAM SAW MORE THAN 110 OF ITS MEMBERS ARRESTED AND CONVICTED IN THE EARLY 90'S. BY TARGETING THE AREA BOUNDED BY 110TH AVE ON THE NORTH, SUTPHIN BLVD. ON THE WEST, MERRICK BLVD. ON THE EAST AND BAISLEY BLVD."**

they took down Fat Cat and Pappy Mason the task force made Prince and the Supreme Team their new target.

The Supreme Team saw more than 110 of its members arrested and convicted in the early 90's. By targeting the area bounded by 110th Ave on the north, Sutphin Blvd. on the west, Merrick Blvd. on the east and Baisley Blvd. on the south the TNT task force waged an all out war on the Supreme Team.

On March 21, 1990, 130 cops from the TNT task force fanned out to 15 area apartments for simultaneous 6am raids. Prince was one of the many arrested during these raids and charged with drug conspiracy. The arrests were results of a yearlong investigation of the Supreme Team.

"They are an extremely volatile group," said Queens DA John J Santucci at the time. But the much feared and tightly run organization had run its course. Miller the heir to the Southeast Queens crack trade,

police said, was through. His gang that had used violence and intimidation to establish and maintain its crack selling operation were all in jail. But Prince's arrest only managed to increase his and the teams infamy as the murder

cases started stacking up.

Prince was charged with the murder of a 19 year old drug dealer who was shot once in the head at point-blank range at 9PM, according to police on August 21, 1987 at the corner of Foch Boulevard and 142nd place in Jamaica. But the jury found Prince not guilty. On July 13, 1990 while he was incarcerated fighting that murder he was indicted for the second set of murder charges in two years. A quadruple homicide of four Columbians while Prince was in jail, the paper reported. The Queens District Attorneys office said Prince ordered the killings from jail and that he operated his drug empire by using telephone code words to direct his underlings. "The fact is, these four people were slaughtered," said District Attorney

Santucci. They were handcuffed, gagged, strangled, and then they bashed their skulls.

According to government documents, Gus Rivera was a Supreme Team member who had introduced Prince to some Colombian suppliers. According to testimony, four of these Colombian drug traffickers were robbed of their cocaine and brutally murdered in July of 1989. However, other than the testimony that two of these men were known as "Fernando" and "George," the government was unable to present evidence as to their identities, and their bodies were never identified.

Allegedly in the wake of the Colombian murders, the crew decided that Gus Rivera was a liability and they arranged for him to be killed. Rivera was shot in the head in a Baisley Park courtyard, but he survived and hid from the gang, temporarily. The crew, allegedly learned from Rivera's girlfriend his whereabouts by threatening to kill her. The crew then tracked Rivera to a Queens' motel room where they shot



This store located at 115th and Sutphin Ave was once owned by Prince and used as the Team's executive hang-out. It is rumored that there was once a snow out in front of the store that lasted almost an hour.

him to death.

In opening statements to the jury for Prince's 1990 quadruple homicide case, Queen Assistant DA Eugene Kelly called Prince the mastermind behind the so-called Supreme Team, which controlled the drug trade in the Jamaica section of the borough. Local detectives testified that since Prince was arrested in 1990 homicides had dropped by more than 30 percent. Ernesto "Puerto Rican Righteous" Piniella who according to newspaper accounts was head of security didn't turn out to be very righteous. At the same state trial Piniella described how four men were tricked into coming to Baisley projects with cocaine to sell and how they were each systematically beaten to death and their bodies put into plastic bags and dumped. Puerto Rican Righteous agreed to testify against Prince in exchange for a promise of a sentence of 8 to 16 years for trying to kill three police officers in an unrelated case.

Court documents describe Trent "Serious" Morris as the team's primary drug courier who negotiated deals by telephone with William "Willie G" Graham a supplier linked with the team who had Columbian connections. Serious testified at the state murder trial that Prince confessed the entire crime to him and showed him where the bodies had been dropped. But for the second time in two years, at the State Supreme Court in Queens, Prince was acquitted of the murder of the four Columbians. District Attorney Santucci said he was startled and dismayed at the verdict.

Court documents say after Morris testified against Prince in the 2nd state murder trial his sister-in-law and her father were killed. The sister-in-law's nude body was found on the floor of her apartment in the Baisley Houses. She had been stabbed numerous times, her head was covered with pantyhose and a pillowcase, her hands were bound and the first letter of Princes nickname, P, was allegedly carved into her torso. Her father's body was found nearby stabbed seven times. The incident outraged the feds and put all the witnesses and their families on notice-don't come forward and testify. Prince was never charged with this murder on the State or Federal level, however as a tactic to sway public opinion every time Prince was mentioned in the newspaper so was this murder.

**Don Diva:** *When Prince began to get indicted on murders did the Team start to get sbook?*

**Tuck:** That is straight bullshit. None of that was ever proved and some



dude admitted to the murders in 1997. They just put that all on the Team to get the feds to take the case because the state was gonna have to let everyone go. Prince was acquitted of the murders and the wiretaps were all thrown out. All the feds had were the snitches who were saying anything to save their own asses. Prince beat four or five bodies in the state and beat eight or nine in the feds. He was back and forth fighting murder cases. They called him Mr.Untouchable in the papers because every single case he beat at trial. That's what made the feds come and get us. It's called the Silver Platter Doctrine. The state said we can do nothing with 'em. You take 'em. They handed us over to the feds on a Silver Platter."

In court documents the state explained that it had been investigating the Supreme Team for some years and had nearly exhausted its traditional investigative techniques with little success. Using normal techniques, the state had been unable to penetrate the Supreme Team or gain sufficient admissible evidence against any member other than those of the lowest echelons. The teams leaders had insulated themselves from police contact through extensive use of body guards and lookouts and when the state applied for wire tap authorization it had yet to identify all of the upper and middle level members of the Supreme Team to determine where the narcotics and illegal proceeds were kept or to identify the teams suppliers. This ex-team members say caused the

## "PRINCE BEAT FOUR OF FIVE BODIES IN THE STATE AND BEAT EIGHT OR NINE IN THE FEDS," TUCK SAYS."

state to begin trumping up charges against the key members so that the feds would pick up their case.

In January of 1992 the feds indicted Prince and his co-defendants on a 14 count racketeering indictment that included counts for drug related murders, drug conspiracy and drug dealing. By now Prince had been in state jail for 3 years but yet to be convicted of any of the vicious things that the media and the government proclaimed he did. The federal government was even re-charging Prince on the quadruple murder he was acquitted for in the State. The newspaper headlines proclaimed, the drug ring that terrorized Southeastern Queens during the 1980's was



Prince (far left) and some homies in Federal Prison

**"COURT TRANSCRIPTS SAY APPROXIMATELY 80 WITNESSES WERE AT THE FEDERAL TRIAL INCLUDING ERNESTO PINIELLA, JULIO HERNANDEZ, TRENT MORRIS AND INA MCGRUFF (NO RELATION TO SUPREME) A CORRUPT FORMER PAROLE OFFICER WHO TRADED INFO TO THE GANG IN EXCHANGE FOR SEX AND MONEY."**

indicted in a string of violence that included at least nine murders. Investigators described the Supreme Team as one of the busiest and bloodiest of the trafficking rings that plagued Queens at the height of the crack epidemic. Court documents say the substantive narcotic distribution charges against the defendants focused on the period from December 1989 to March 1990 during which the state was monitoring the gangs activity with wiretaps.

**Don Diva:** *Do you think you all were treated fairly by the judicial system?*

**Tuck:** The feds can make anything look however they want. It's the United States of America versus you. The whole fucking United States versus you. Their resources are unlimited. Why do you think the feds have a 99% conviction rate?

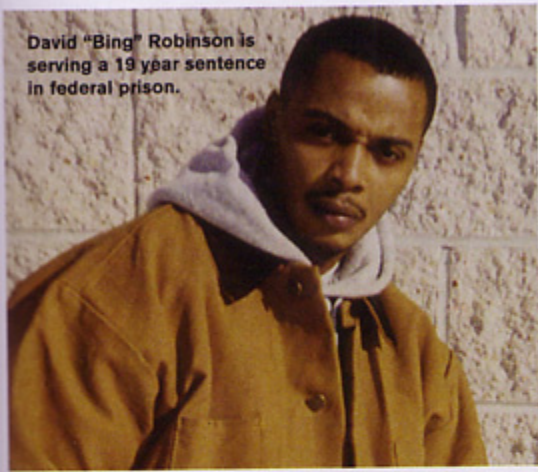
**Teddy:** It is easy to go before a grand jury and tell them anything. It is very easy to paint a picture for the government. Using a recent example; How could Irv Gotti be Supreme's childhood friend when he is 10 years younger than Preme. We didn't know Irv as nothing but a d.j.

During the prelude to the trial the judge reported that Prince who served as his own lawyer in pretrial proceeding was making carefully orchestrated maneuvers to delay the trial as long as possible so that witnesses could be intimidated into not testifying against him. And jumping on this authorities insisted that not only was Prince a remorseless killer but he blended lethal wickedness with legal cunning; a dangerous combination according to the feds.

Court transcripts say approximately 80 witnesses were at the federal trial including Ernesto Piniella, Julio Hernandez, Trent Morris and



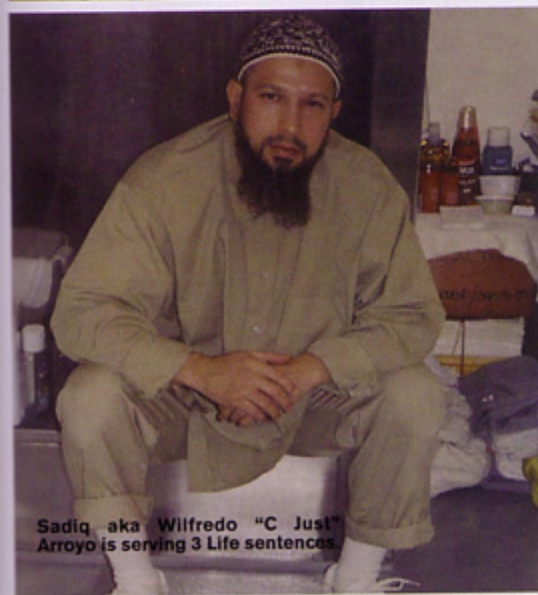
David "Bing" Robinson is serving a 19 year sentence in federal prison.



Baisley Park Basketball court- the site of many basketball tournaments. One year a referee was beat to death for allegedly making an unfavorable call.



Sadiq aka Wilfredo "C Just" Arroyo is serving 3 Life sentences.



Baisley Park Pond where it is rumored that law enforcement once drained the pond and found 10 dead bodies.



Shannon Jimenez is serving a 30 year sentence in federal prison.



Ina McGriff (no relation to Supreme) a corrupt former parole officer who traded info to the gang in exchange for sex and money. In 1987 the Supreme Team according to court documents, was still allied with Lorenzo "Fat Cat" Nichols. Fat Cat suspected two men, Henry and Isaac Bolden of robbing Nichols organization for \$100,000 in money and drugs. While Fat Cat was incarcerated he sought Prince's assistance in locating the Boldens so that Nichols crewmembers could kill them.

To obtain the whereabouts of the Bolden brothers, Prince allegedly sought the help of Ina Mc Griff. At the trial Ina McGriff testified that Fat Cat asked her through Prince to obtain info on the Bolden brothers to facilitate the murder. Ina McGriff claimed that Prince paid her and another woman \$3000 for the addresses for the two Boldens' and their families. According to government documents handwritten notes of such addresses were recovered in a raid of a Supreme Team apartment and that the information on the notes was passed on to Fat Cat's organization. Subsequently Henry Bolden was shot at his address in the Bronx

## "THE GANG THAT THE FEDS SAID WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR 20 MURDERS AND COUNTLESS SHOOTINGS BEAT ALMOST EVERY SINGLE MURDER COUNT."

and Isaac Bolden was shot and killed at his mothers' address. Fat Cat made statements to law enforcement that Prince arranged the assassinations for him while he was in jail.

Court documents say at the Miller trial the government presented voluminous evidence including tapes and transcripts of more than 100 wiretapped conversation among Supreme Team members, telephone records, fingerprint evidence, photographs of assemble Supreme Team members, firearms and ammunition, narcotics paraphernalia and assorted documents. "At trial during the opening statements," Tuck says. "One of the jurors went back and told another juror, 'This trial seems just like New Jack City'. And the jurors told the judge. The judge didn't know what New Jack City was about so he went out and watched the movie that night." As Tuck and them went to court more treachery was uncovered. Julio Hernandez joined Puerto Rican Righteous and Serious as a snitch. "Julio was the only one who had access to all the floors at MCC New York. 7 South was notorious for rats and Julio was on 7 South. He swore to God he wasn't telling. He was coming to our co-defendant strategy meetings with all the lawyers. He's sitting there in the room, going back and telling the feds our trial strategy. What they call a spy in the camp," says Tuck.

The federal prosecutor was Leslie Caldwell. She had make a career of prosecuting Queens drug dealers as she was the same prosecutor who put away Fat Cat and Pappy Mason. She was ruthless in her pursuit to clean up the streets in Queens. She attributed the Supreme Teams longevity to its unhesitating use of violence. And the only place for members of the team that she said left a four year trail of bodies and terror in South Jamaica was in the federal penitentiary.

The Verdict- GUILTY but not as guilty as the government would have

liked. The gang that the feds said were responsible for 20 murders and countless shootings beat almost every single murder count. Prince beat every single murder charge except one facilitation of a homicide (the Bolden murder) and he was convicted of the 848 (drug kingpin statue). Big C beat 7 murders. Shannon beat 4 murder charges. Even with beating most of the homicides on their case, the government still "hit them in the head."

**Tuck:** When I went for sentencing I was mentally prepared to do the rest of my life in prison. Teddy was the first one sentenced. We were in MDC Brooklyn and he came back and told me he had thirteen. I thought he was telling me thirteen life sentences. But he meant 13 years. Prince was sentenced to 7 life sentences. C-Just to 3 lifes, Big C got 2 lifes, Pookie got life, Shannon got 30 years, Bing got 19 years, Ace 15 years, Teddy 13 years and I got sentenced to 14 years. When they gave me 14 years instead of a life sentence I thought I was blessed.

Judge Raymond Dearie, US District court Judge for the Eastern District of New York told Tuck at sentencing, "You people have stuck together. I'll give you that. And you have proven your loyalty, I'll give you that. But there's a real high price to pay for that loyalty and you're going down in flames. I cannot understand it, but it's not for me to understand. And even if I could understand it I could not excuse it."

**Don Diva:** *Do you ever feel like you were taken advantage of because of your youth and the loyalty you had?*

**Teddy:** No but it's funny you asked me that. Sadiq (C-Just who has unjustly been locked down at the SuperMax in Florence, Co for the last 8yrs.) one day said he felt that we were and that he felt bad about it.

**Don Diva:** *Do you have any regrets about the lifestyle you chose?*

**Tuck:** Coming up in the hood is rough. You see all types of shit and its not pretty. I would never in a million years do what I've done all over again. I don't give a fuck now how much money you have. No amount of money is worth 10, 15, 20 years of a life sentence. When I was younger I didn't give a fuck. It was all about getting that paper. However as one gets older his perspective on life changes. When I look back I see that all my friends are dead and none of them died of old age.

**Teddy:** I regret some actions understanding now what drugs actually do to communities. I also regret how these kids are trying to emulate us. But that is the lifestyle that I chose to live...I couldn't say I wouldn't do it all over...I would. I probably would but be smarter...but that time in my life made me the man I am and I wouldn't change that. All I can do now is be a father to my children-They grew up while I was in prison. I was also disappointed that all supposed to be O.-- that we looked up to were the ones that snitched. All the young dudes held our heads

**Don Diva:** *What do you say to young who want to be you?*

**Teddy:** You have to have heart to be in the game. That is why there are so many snitches. These dudes now want to be like a Prince or Preme but they can't stand up. But on the real there isn't anything pretty about the street game. No amount of money is worth giving your life to the Feds or losing it in these streets.

**Tuck:** Sometimes when you're young you make decisions that affect the rest of your life. You have to pay the consequences for your actions. You can't say I got to find a way out of this. Dudes want to play monopoly all day but nobody wants to go to jail. Everybody wants that 'Get out of Jail Free' card. If you're gonna play the so called game then play it right. When your number is called, and your number will inevitably be called. Be willing to handle this jail shit just like you handle that street shit, gangsta.