

I'm not a robot

























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Thompson, being held at a federal prison in downstate Pekin, is among the most notorious of hundreds of Chicago criminals looking for a break under the First Step Act. In the 1990s, he became “king” of the Black Disciples, one of Chicago’s biggest gangs, succeeding imprisoned Jerome “Shorty” Freeman, according to prosecutors.They say the gang is now splintered into factions but that, back then, Thompson was the unquestioned boss.The case against Thompson showed he ordered a member of his gang to be shot in the hand for disobeying an order, and his underlings were accused of beating and killing gang members who didn’t follow the rules.Thompson owned a record company and laundered drug proceeds through more than a dozen properties, according to prosecutors, who said he used the buildings in a mortgage-fraud scheme even as he was giving his time and money to community organizations. He even posed for photos with Mayor Richard M. Daley and President George W. Bush.In his letter, Thompson said he was raised by a single teenage mother. He wrote that their belongings got tossed out when they were evicted for not paying rents, and that older criminals became his father figures.“They believed just as I, once, that positive change can come from illegal means,” he wrote. “I have come to know that that is an illusion.”Thompson said he visited kids in school, trying to be a role model, but now regrets: “Although the visits and support may have done some good, I can see the young men thinking ‘selling drugs and the street life made Marvel like this — and I want to be just like him.’ ” In prison, Thompson said, he’s learned carpentry, plumbing and electrical skills and hopes to return to his family and work in “community outreach.”“I realized that I needed to contribute to the efforts to curb the violence that the people of my community were inflicting upon each other,” he wrote.And Thompson said that, if he goes free, he won’t return to the gang — not that he could after cooperating with prosecutors: “My cooperation with the United States government has been made public, which fully and finally severed my criminal ties.”The TYMB Maneyman, TYMB Obama, TYMB Zero, THF Mooda, THF Bruh Bruh, FBG Brick, Killa Kellz The Black Disciple saga is a gripping tale of how young pre-teen boys joined forces to tackle civil rights injustices and gang violence in their neighborhoods. Let’s travel back in time to 1958, when the northern part of Hyde Park, Kenwood, and Englewood were struggling with poverty. Wealthy white “greaser” youths in Hyde Park and Kenwood were bullying black youths, while in Englewood, Italian families resented the influx of black families moving into their neighborhood. The construction of the Dan Ryan Expressway system that year further exacerbated tensions by displacing black families from their communities. In this volatile atmosphere, a group of friends from Kenwood, Hyde Park, and Englewood decided to form a club to combat these enemies. These 11-13-year-old boys flipped through the Bible for inspiration and landed on “Disciple” as the name for their organization. Adding the prefix “Devil’s” gave them an intimidating edge. The Disciples emerged in various locations, with their original Englewood stronghold at 63rd and Stewart. The East Side Disciples, based at 43rd Street in Kenwood, expanded south into Hyde Park to 53rd and Kimbark, where they established headquarters for the entire city-wide organization. However, Englewood Disciples tended to gather at 63rd and Stewart. Founding members included Richard “Champ” Strong, David Barksdale, Mingo Shread, Prince Old Timer, Kilroy, Leonard Longstreet, Night Walker, and Laverque. Initially without a central leader, the Disciples kept their activities out of the press. They created symbols like the star of David, pitchfork, and devil’s tail with horns in 1958. Their first arch-nemesis was the “Sons of Italy,” a powerful white gang in Englewood that clashed with the Disciples over neighborhood dynamics.The Egyptian Cobras, a gang from Fuller Park, shifted their focus to Englewood in 1958, marking the beginning of the gang’s involvement in the community. In 1959, the Disciples made their first expansion into Woodlawn, occupying roughly two-thirds of the area, while the remaining territory was claimed by the Egyptian Cobras. This led to a rivalry between the Disciples and the Egyptian Cobras, with the Blackstone Rangers also becoming involved. The Disciples would solidify their presence in Woodlawn, establishing themselves as a dominant force. The arrival of black families in South Shore, a neighborhood marked by anti-black and anti-Jewish sentiment since the 19th century, prompted the Devil’s Disciples to move into the area to support the local community. Over time, many high-ranking members preferred South Shore due to its more affluent environment. The Disciples would purchase homes in this area, turning it into a sacred territory for the gang. In 1959, the Disciples also settled in the Greater Grand Crossing and Washington Park neighborhoods, areas plagued by poverty and blight. They arrived to support the struggling black community, patrolling the streets and working to eliminate rival gangs. Both communities became heavily coveted by the Disciples, who established strongholds there. By the early 1960s, the Disciples had become dominant in Englewood, with white flight leading to an influx of new black families. The Italian greaser gangs, which had previously controlled the area, were now fighting a losing war against the Disciples. In 1961, David Barksdale took over leadership of the Devil’s Disciples and oversaw the expansion of the gang into Englewood. Barksdale appointed Mingo as President of the Disciples in Hyde Park and Kenwood, establishing a strong presence in these neighborhoods. The University of Chicago’s renovation program, which aimed to revitalize southern Kenwood and northern Hyde Park, ultimately led to the displacement of many black families from these areas. As these families moved to Englewood, the Disciples grew stronger, with a new headquarters established at 63rd and Stewart in 1963. The Disciples’ presence in Englewood was further solidified by their relocation to this area, which became a hub for the gang’s activities. The Cabrini Green public housing projects, where Richard Strong and his family resided, also marked an important milestone in the Disciples’ expansion into Englewood. =====The Devil’s Disciples: A Gang’s Rise to Power in Cabrini Green In the 1960s, small gangs like those led by Egyptian Cobras gained popularity in the Cabrini Green area, recruiting black youths into their ranks. One such gang, the Black Deuces, was formed by Strong and became tied to the Devil’s Disciples. This affiliation led to a significant presence of the Disciples in the Cabrini Green area until the projects were demolished. As the Disciples expanded south of 79th Street, they settled in areas like Auburn-Gresham, Calumet Heights, Burnside, and Roseland. These neighborhoods struggled with racial tensions and violent conflicts between whites and blacks. The Disciples provided aid to the black community during these tumultuous times. The Roseland community became a hub for the Wild 100s GDs and BDs, marking the beginning of the Disciples’ stronghold in these neighborhoods. This settlement period saw clashes between the Disciples and Blackstone Rangers, who were also settling in the same areas. The rivalry with the Rangers continued as the Disciples spread into south suburbs like Harvey, Dixmoor, Phoenix, Chicago Heights, Robbins, and Ford Heights. Racial strife was a pervasive issue in these communities, manifesting in behaviors such as bullying in schools, unequal treatment by teachers, unfair neighborhood boundaries, and biased police treatment. Black residents faced violence, taunting, and harsh punishment from authorities. These issues were often swept under the rug as whites fled to white neighborhoods, taking their businesses and homes with them. The Devil’s Disciples became a dominant force in these communities by 1965, their influence rivaling that of other gangs like the Blackstone Rangers. The original conflict between black and white residents was fueled by discrimination that lasted only a year or two, but its impact persisted for decades.The Blackstone Rangers started as smaller groups, but their visibility increased due to their outspoken nature in media outlets. In January 1966, the Disciples shifted their focus from individual recruitment to gang alliance recruitment. They aimed for all gangs to adopt the “Disciple” name while maintaining their original identity. This move expanded the coalition beyond Bronzeville into other areas like Ida B. Wells and Clarence Darrow projects. As the Disciples gained traction, older gangs in these communities began to join or adopt the Disciple name. The group’s expansion led to their presence in Harold Ickes projects on the Near South Side. Despite this growth, the Disciples kept a low profile, avoiding notoriety and media attention. However, their rival Black P Stone nation spread rapidly after its creation in 1966, drawing attention from history books. The Disciples’ west side expansion brought them into conflict with smaller gangs like those on the Near West Side. They established “pockets” of activity in areas such as the Henry Horner projects and Medical District section. Although not significant at first, these early Disciple settlements paved the way for future growth. In 1966, the group became active in community work, hosting fundraisers, operating legitimate businesses, enforcing school policies, and providing support to local kids. David Barksdale’s leadership played a crucial role in this positive change. The Disciples were also linked with civil rights groups, fighting against injustices. A peace treaty was attempted between the Disciples and Rangers in 1966, although it ultimately failed. In 1967, the Woodlawn Organization received funding to support job training centers for neighborhood youths. Despite a lack of training, Disciples instructors earned a salary, with around \$360,000 allocated specifically for their program. The conflict between the Black P Stones and Disciples subsided in May 1968, after a period of violence that lasted until May 8th. David Barksdale’s encounter with Detectives in Woodlawn on that day remains significant. The Ellis Rebel Stones’ attempted assassination of him led to a confrontation, ultimately resolving the conflict between the two groups. The fateful year of 1968 marked a pivotal moment in the history of the Black P. Stone Nation, Moore, and Williams, as it also led to the demise of a long-standing peace treaty. A report by the People Vs. McChristian reveals that the war between the Disciples and Supreme Gangster allied gangs intensified, with Larry Hoover becoming a primary target for assassination attempts. A third attempt on Larry’s life was made on September 4th, 1968, which left Englewood in a state of high alert as both Disciples and Supreme Gangsters were armed and ready to engage in a violent confrontation. At Parker High School, tensions between the two groups reached a boiling point, with members from both organizations clashing over their differences. In a shocking turn of events, a Disciple member named James Highsmith shot Larry Hoover, resulting in two others being injured nearby. Despite no fatalities, Highsmith was subsequently convicted and sentenced to one to five years in prison. The incident marked the beginning of an escalation of violence on the south side of Chicago during the fall season of 1968. It is essential to acknowledge that the leadership and founders of both the Black P. Stones and the Devil’s Disciples had genuine intentions to put an end to the violence, as they were friends with the Supreme Gangsters despite their differences. However, factions within each organization began to act in self-interest, leading to further conflict. During this same year, Jeff Fort and the Black P. Stones received significant government grant money under the guise of a community youth group, which was intended to address poverty. Although some funds were allocated for legitimate purposes, such as opening businesses that benefited young blacks, others were diverted for illicit activities, drawing the attention of the FBI. Interestingly, the same organizations providing funding to the Stones also granted money to the Disciples, primarily due to their rival status within the Black P. Stone Nation. When asked about their primary adversary, the Stones pointed to the Disciples, prompting these groups to shower them with funds without necessarily soliciting it from them. The Disciples utilized a significant portion of this allocated funding for good, establishing legitimate businesses and programs aimed at helping black youths on the south side. However, they, like the Vice Lords and Stones, eventually fell under FBI investigation due to mismanaging these funds for purposes such as purchasing drugs and firearms. The Black Gangster Disciple Nation: A Rise to Power in the Robert Taylor Homes =====Mickey Bull Johnson, a young Heavy hitter enforcer, revolutionized the Robert Taylor Homes in 1968 by conquering a vast area between 49th and State down to 53rd and State. His conquest against the Cobra Stones was a resounding success, marking the first time the Disciples claimed dominance in the Robert Taylor Homes. In June 1969, Larry Hoover severed ties with Jeff Fort, instead forming an alliance with David Barksdale. This union gave birth to the Black Gangster Disciple Nation, uniting the Gangster nation under Larry Hoover’s leadership and the Disciples under David Barksdale’s command. Prince Old Timer was appointed Prince of the Disciples, while “Tennessee” held sway as Prince of the Gangsters. The formation of the BGDs, or Black Gangster Disciples, became a rallying cry for many gangs, who saw it as an identity and a badge of honor. In June 1969, Vice Lords, Black P Stones, and BGDs coalesced into the “Lords Stones and Disciples” (LSD) coalition, aiming to challenge government oppression and demand equal rights. The LSD coalition’s efforts paid off in January 1970 with the implementation of the “Chicago Plan,” an agreement that aimed to boost minority employment in Chicago’s construction industry. However, by October 1973, the coalition had disbanded due to its lack of success. As black migration into white neighborhoods intensified, Disciples sought refuge on the far south side of Chicago, settling in communities like Pullman, West Pullman, Riverdale, and Morgan Park. The Disciple influence still lingers in these areas, with powerful decks a testament to their enduring presence. In the Altgeld Gardens projects, crime and drug activity grew, drawing the Disciples into this new territory.The Black Gangster Disciples emerged in the Uptown community in the late 1960s, following a period of increased black migration that led to racially motivated violence. The group’s arrival coincided with clashes between rival gangs, including the Blackstone Rangers and the newly established Black P Stones. As tensions escalated, David Barksdale, a key figure in the Black P Stones, was shot by members of his own gang in June 1970. Larry Hoover, a close associate of Barksdale’s, intervened and saved his life. Meanwhile, Richard Strong, the founder of the Cabrini Green Disciples, began to build a reputation as a community leader through the formation of the B.L.A.C.K.S civil rights group. Although the group’s efforts were ultimately absorbed by the Disciples, it marked an early attempt to address the social issues facing the Uptown community. In 1971, investigations into street gangs and their connections to government funding led to several high-ranking members of the Black P Stones being charged and convicted. However, similar investigations targeted the Black Gangster Disciples, with Mingo’s testimony against his own organization failing to secure convictions for the group. Notably, while both groups were accused of mismanaging funds, it appeared that the government had a stronger interest in pursuing charges against the Black P Stones. The lack of prosecution against the Disciples led some to suggest that the government’s efforts may have been motivated by a desire to target one gang over another. The Disciples began to lose their organization in 1971, with some groups refusing to follow the rules and even fighting among themselves. There were those who wanted to overthrow Larry Hoover, while others disliked the Gangsters due to a past conflict. Some individuals had personal interests that led them to rebel against the leadership. In 1973, a harsh punishment was imposed on the BGDs when William “Pooky” Young was killed in cold blood by Andrew Howard and Larry Hoover ordered it. On February 26, 1973, Young’s murder occurred at 68th and Union in Englewood, where he was shot six times in the head. Howard and Hoover were arrested on March 16 for the crime and sentenced to 150 to 200 years in prison by November 5, 1973. As Larry Hoover sat in prison, David Barksdale’s health began to decline. 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Some groups sought to kill Larry Hoover, while others supported his claim to the throne. This led to a period of violence and internal conflict within the Disciples. By the summer of 1976, Mickey Bull, a rising Vanguard in the Robert Taylor Homes, had gained enough power to order his loyal followers to carry out specific tasks. He was released from prison in 1975 after serving time for manslaughter charges. With Barksdale’s absence, chaos brewed within the Disciples, and factions vied for control. =====Mickey Bull Johnson, a young Heavy hitter enforcer, revolutionized the Robert Taylor Homes in 1968 by conquering a vast area between 49th and State down to 53rd and State. His conquest against the Cobra Stones was a resounding success, marking the first time the Disciples claimed dominance in the Robert Taylor Homes. In June 1969, Larry Hoover severed ties with Jeff Fort, instead forming an alliance with David Barksdale. 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