

## This Week in History

### AUGUST 19

1791 - Benjamin Banneker sends a copy of his just-published almanac to Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, along with an appeal on behalf of African-Americans' "humiliating condition (slavery)..."

1926 - Theodore Flowers, known as the "Georgia Deacon," wins the world middleweight boxing title in New York City.

1946 - Charles F. Bolden, Jr., is born in Columbia, S.C. A pilot who flew over 100 sorties in Southeast Asia, Bolden will be named an astronaut in 1981. He will become a veteran pilot of several missions, including the Space Shuttle Atlantis in 1992, where he will participate as a presenter of a special Academy Award to science-fiction film producer George Lucas.

1950 - Mrs. Edith Sampson is the first African-American appointed as a representative to the UN.

1989 - Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu is among hundreds of black demonstrators who are whipped and sandblasted from helicopters as they attempt to picnic on a "whites-only" beach near Capetown, South Africa.

### AUGUST 20

1565 - Black artisans and farmers aid explorer Menendez in building the city of St. Augustine, FL.

1619 - The first group of 20 Africans are brought to Jamestown, Va.

1942 - Issac Hayes is born in Covington, Tenn. His soundtrack for the movie *Shart* will earn him an Oscar and two Grammys. He will win a Grammy again in 1972 for Black Moses.

1964 - The Economic Opportunity Act is signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The act initiates what will popularly be called the "War on Poverty."

1989 - The first National Black Theater Festival closes in Winston-Salem, N.C. Organized by Larry Leon Hamlin, the festival draws over 20,000 people to performances of African-American Classical and contemporary plays by groups such as the Crossroads Theater of New Brunswick, N.J. and the Inner City Cultural Center of Los Angeles.

### AUGUST 21

1904 - William "Count" Basie is born in Redbank, N.J. One of the most influential forces in jazz, he will amass numerous awards, including three Grammys and Kennedy Center Honors in 1981.

1932 - Melvin Van Peebles is born in Chicago, Ill. A writer and dramatist, he will produce some of the more important African-American feature films of the 1960's and 1970's, including *Story of a Three Day Pass*, *Watermelon Man*, *Sweet Sweetback's Baadass Song* and the classic, *Putney Swope*.

1936 - Wilt Chamberlain is born in Philadelphia, Pa. Achieving a height of 6'11" in high school, Chamberlain will leave Kansas University in his third year to play with the Harlem Globetrotters and join the Philadelphia Warriors (later 76ers) in 1959. He will join the LA Lakers in 1969 and become a player-coach in 1968 for the San Diego Conquistadors of the American Basketball Association.

### AUGUST 22

1831 - Responding to a vision commanding him to lead his people to freedom, Nat Turner and a group of seven slaves murder five members of the Travis family. Turner's revolt will last two days, involve 60 to 80 slaves and result in the deaths of at least 57 whites before they go into hiding. Turner will eventually be captured and hanged for his crimes.

1843 - Henry H. Garnet issues a call for slave revolt in "An Address to Slaves of the United States" before a national convention of African-Americans in Buffalo, N.Y.

1917 - John Lee Hooker, who will become a renowned blues singer and guitarist, is born in Clarksdale, Miss.

1978 - Jomo Kenyatta, president of Kenya, dies of heart failure in his sleep while vacationing in Mobasa, Kenya. He was the leading force in Kenya's independence struggles.

1989 - Huey Newton dies in Oakland, Calif. The founder of the Black Panther Party is shot to death outside a crack cocaine house allegedly by a drug dealer whom Newton has robbed.

### AUGUST 23

1892 - O.E. Brown, inventor, receives patent for the horseshoe.

1900 - The National Negro Business League is formed in (See History, Page 18)

# Cop says wrong man convicted

NEW YORK (AP) — Disgraced police Officer Justin Volpe has given authorities a written account of his assault on a Haitian immigrant that claims jurors convicted the wrong officer as his accomplice.

In excerpts of the statement published Monday in the *New York Post*, Volpe, who pleaded guilty to sodomizing Abner Louima with a broken broom handle in a Brooklyn police station bathroom, says Officer Thomas Wiese — and not Officer Charles Schwarz — acted as a lookout during the attack.

A federal jury convicted Schwarz in June after prosecutors identified him as one of the two officers Louima claimed were in the bathroom.

Schwarz and Volpe are in federal custody awaiting sentencing. They face maximum sentences of life in prison.

In a May 25 plea with the jury absent, Volpe claimed that another officer was present while he sodomized a handcuffed Louima with a stick, but at that time he did not identify which officer it was.

Later, his attorney,

Marvyn Kornberg, said that Volpe said the second officer was not Schwarz. But not until recently has Volpe given a detailed statement to authorities.

Schwarz's attorney, Ronald Fischetti, on Monday said he would appeal the case and hinted he would use Volpe's statement.

Volpe, in his statement, describes flying into a rage because he believed — mistakenly — that Louima had punched him during a brawl outside a Brooklyn nightclub in the summer of 1997. He says that after making a weapon by breaking

a broomstick in half, he spotted Wiese holding a handcuffed Louima and pulled the prisoner away from him.

"Wiese followed me into the bathroom, stood by the door," Volpe wrote in the statement. "He saw what was going on and did nothing to stop it."

Kornberg confirmed that Volpe had written the statement, but he refused to provide a copy. The statement was not filed in Brooklyn federal court.

Kornberg claims the same information was offered to (See Cop, Page 18)

## Michigan cops indicted on drug charges

DETROIT (AP) — Six police officers were indicted Friday on charges of robbing and beating people on the streets of their precinct and hoarding money, guns and drugs from illegal searches of suspected drug houses.

The officers were charged with federal civil rights conspiracy, which carries a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Three of the officers, Rodney Rice, 40, Irvin

Lamont Upshaw, 41, and Larone Cook, 31, are also charged with taking bribes for protecting drug traffickers and possessing drugs and the equipment used to distribute them, such as scales for weighing.

Conspiracy to distribute controlled substances carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

The six worked in the 5th Precinct, a hotbed of police corruption in a force rocked

by scandal.

The latest indictments are the result of a joint investigation between police and the FBI.

In May, a former officer was sentenced to 10 years in prison for conspiracy to rob a numbers operator.

Two other former officers from the precinct also were convicted in the case.

Ten former officers from a different precinct were indicted in 1997 on charges of conspiring to steal money,

drugs and guns from drug dealers and others while on duty.

"We lose credibility as an organization," Police Chief Charles Wilson said. The public needs "to have full confidence that we are law-abiding as much as law-upholding."

Accused officer Mark Heath told television station WDIV that he's innocent.

The other officers charged are Antonio Carlisi, 26 and Christopher Cole, 37.

## FBI investigates LAPD killing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal prosecutors have launched an investigation into the shotgun killing of two unarmed robbery suspects by members of the police department's controversial Special Investigation Section.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Gennaco called for the FBI investigation on Monday after a preliminary autopsy report found that the two men were shot in the back.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, SIS officers have engaged in more than 50 gun battles, killed at least 34 suspects and wounded dozens of other people since the group's formation 34 years ago.

Critics say its members sometimes act recklessly, violating suspects' civil rights, and wonder if the squad is worth its extra cost.

Defenders cite such high-profile arrests as the killer of Bill Cosby's son.

The two suspects were shot Saturday after a brief standoff with police. Officers believed the men were involved in a robbery at a travel agency in Granada Hills and were suspects in a series of travel agency heists.

Police said the men did not obey orders to surrender.

One man was shot while reaching for his waistband and turning toward detectives, officers said. The other man was reaching for his waistband as he crawled out of a window of their car, investigators reported.

However, officials acknowledged that neither man had a gun. A handgun that had not been fired was found on the front seat of the car.

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### PROPOSED FARE INCREASES-STRIP ROUTES

The Regional Transportation Commission of Clark County, Nevada (RTC) is proposing increases for the full cash fare, reduced cash fare, full token fare and reduced token fare on Citizens Area Transit (CAT) Las Vegas Boulevard "Strip" routes 301, 302 and 303. On these routes, the proposed change would increase the current one-way base cash fare from \$1.50 to \$2.00 and increase the reduced cash one-way fare from \$0.50 to \$1.00. In addition, tokens required for a one-way full fare ride will increase from three tokens to four, and tokens required for reduced fare eligible riders will increase from one to two tokens.

CAT has been named one of the most efficient and cost-effective transit services in the country. CAT's ridership is far exceeding the system's ability to meet service demand. Without additional funds from the proposed fare increase, growth of the system to meet demands is severely limited. Revenue from this proposal will be used exclusively to meet the growing demand for transit service in our community. RTC is not proposing to change residential fares or monthly pass prices with this increase.

A document detailing the proposed fare increase is available to the public for review and comment at the RTC offices.

#### Public Comment Period

Comments on the proposed fare increase are encouraged and welcomed by the RTC for a thirty day period beginning on August 15, 1999 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on September 14, 1999. Comments will be accepted in writing or by phone at 228-7433. Written comments must be received before the September 14 deadline to: Fare Increase Public Comment, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Suite 350, Las Vegas, NV 89106.

Regional Transportation Commission  
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Phone: (702) 676-1500  
Fax: (702) 676-1518

