

Tuesday, August 28, 1990

# Stevie Ray Vaughan died Monday South African blacks on strike in Soweto

Wis. (AP) — Grammy-winning blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan was among five people killed early Monday when their helicopter slammed into a hill in dense fog after leaving a concert, authorities said.

## Helicopter crashes after leaving concert, claims four other lives

The other victims were three members of rock star Eric Clapton's entourage and a pilot. Clapton, who played with Vaughan at the concert Sunday night, landed safely in Chicago on another helicopter. His publicist, Ronnie

**"This is the worst accident to happen to Texas music since Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper went down in the '50s."**

**—Casey Monahan, Dir. of Texas Music Office**

Lippin, announced Vaughan's death. Lippin said there was no truth to a report that Vaughan had begged to get on the helicopter that crashed because it would arrive at its destination earlier.

Clapton said the victims, who included his agent, bodyguard, and tour manager, "were my compan-

ions, my associates, and my friends. This is a tragic loss of some very special people."

The helicopter, owned by Omni Flight Helicopters Inc., crashed into a field shortly after leaving the Alpine Valley Music Theater, an open-air stage and ski resort near East Troy, 30 miles southwest of Milwaukee, said Omni spokesman Phil Huth.

Wreckage and bodies were scattered over 200 feet, authorities said. Clapton's manager, Roger Forrester, told Britain's Sky News: "We had four helicopters and Eric and I were in one directly behind it when it suddenly disappeared from vision."

"Obviously we were not aware of the tragic circumstances until the early hours when daybreak broke and they discovered it on a ski slope directly behind the building in which we had just performed."

Among the victims was Bobby Brooks, 34, Clapton's agent at Creative Artists Agency, whose clients also included Crosby, Stills & Nash; Whoopi Goldberg; Pat Benatar; Jackson Browne and Dolly Parton.

Vaughan, 35, who overcame a 1986 drug problem to win two

Grammy awards and the musician of the decade honors in his home state of Texas, gained popularity in the middle 1980s with his guitar jamming and blues sound, borrowed much from music legends B.B. King, Muddy Waters and Albert King.

B.B. King said he was "saddened beyond words" after learning of Vaughan's death.

"Stevie Ray Vaughan was like one of my children, and I felt a great loss when I heard the news," B.B. King said in a statement. "The loss is a great loss for blues music and all fans of music around the world. He was just beginning to be appreciated and develop his potential."

Chicago blues guitarist Buddy Guy, a longtime friend of Vaughan who had participated in Sunday night's concert, choked back tears after learning about the crash.

"He was one of the greatest I ever met," Guy said. "My head ain't right yet."

"This is the worst accident to happen to Texas music since Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper went down in the '50s," said Casey Monahan, director of the Texas Music Of-

face in Austin, where Vaughan got his musical start. "It's a hole no one can fill."

Andy Schwartz, a spokesman for Epic Records in New York, which owns Vaughan's label, said Vaughan had toured this summer with blues singer Joe Cocker and was to release a new record in September with his brother, Jimmie.

Jimmie Vaughan had been at the

weekend concert, Schwartz said.

"They were really looking forward to the release of the record, had completed some video and were having some discussion about touring as the Vaughan brothers," Schwartz said.

Vaughan had a platinum album with his band Double Trouble in "Couldn't Stand the Weather," released in 1984.

The strike was called by the anti-apartheid Soweto Civic Association

to "protest the violence, police behavior and to mourn our dead." Residents in several neighboring townships also took part.

Heavily armed South African troops and police in armored vehicles patrolled the townships. Police commanders reported no new violence in the Johannesburg area.

Savage fighting erupted in the townships around Johannesburg on Aug. 12, pitting Xhosa and other blacks loyal to the African National Congress against Zulus tied to the conservative Inkatha movement. Police said at least 515 people were killed.

Police said Monday at least 10 blacks were killed during the weekend in the eastern province of Natal, which has been the scene of factional fighting since 1986. More than 5,000 people have died there.

Tutu, a top anti-apartheid leader, passionately denounced the government and police for the violence. He charged the unrest was fomented to frustrate blacks' struggle to be free in South Africa, where the black majority has no voice in national affairs.

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**—B.B. King, Blues Guitarist**

## Miss America Pageant marks 70th anniversary

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The 50 women competing to be Miss America 1991 arrived Monday, using a train for the first time since 1939 as the pageant began its two-week 70th anniversary celebration.

"Since it was my first train ride, I was quite excited," said Miss Indiana Brenda Alyce Bassett. "It reminded me somewhat of an airplane."

The contestants' arrival for next week's competition differed from years past when competitors came by plane and car at staggered times.

Suzanne Lawrence is representing Texas this year. Pageant director Leonard Horn said the pageant wanted to return to train travel to commemorate the anniversary of the program, which first began in 1921 as a public relations gimmick by seaside merchants to eke out an added weekend of tourists after Labor Day.

The pageant has gradually placed greater emphasis on brains over beauty, but Monday's arrival — like most first days — shifted the focus to contestants' looks and what they were wearing. After lining up in front of their chartered train, they waved on cue for about 20 photographers and assumed the pageant pose of left leg slightly forward and right foot at a 45-degree angle.

Reporters were kept away from

the women when they arrived, because interviews were allowed later in the day.

Miss Alabama Resha Riggins, whose state is first alphabetically, led the line of contestants entering the Atlantic City Rail Station amid nervous giggles and perpetual smiles.

Unlike last year when purple seemed to be the color of choice, this year's contestants' clothes spanned the spectrum from canary yellow to flaming red.

Hostesses — women volunteers who will accompany the contestants during every appearance in public — immediately latched on to their charges with a hug as they entered the station.

The roughly 200 spectators who gathered in the depot decorated with red, white and blue balloons for welcoming remarks by Mayor Jim Whelan didn't seem to mind being kept away from the participants.

"We're the 'World's Playground' again," said Victor Marsdell, of nearby Ventnor. "Isn't it wonderful?"

This year, the contestants spent the weekend making public appearances in Philadelphia. Between 1935 and 1939, the contestants first stopped in Philadelphia before they came to Atlantic City.

## Bulgarian police stand guard against Democratic protesters

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Police were instructed Monday to use truncheons and tear gas if necessary to prevent further violence after anti-Communist protesters torched and ransacked the governing Socialist Party headquarters.

Hundreds of police stood guard around the partly gutted building, blocking access to nearby government offices and the presidential palace.

The Socialist Party held a rally nearby Monday evening, apparently to show its strength despite the attack on its headquarters. Thousands attended, a state radio reporter said.

A small group of demonstrators broke away from a larger anti-Communist protest late Sunday and threw torches into the party building's windows. They were incensed by the red star — the symbol of Communist, one-party rule — on top of the building.

The Socialist Party is made up of reform Communists who renamed themselves earlier this year. They retained the headquarters and became the only former Communist Party in Eastern Europe to win multiparty elections after the region's democratic upheaval.

But the Socialists have seen their popularity erode as the economy de-

teriorates. Increasingly vehement protests preceded the one Sunday.

Last week, the party promised to remove red stars and other Communist symbols from buildings after an anti-Communist activist threatened to set himself on fire. But the symbols had not actually been removed.

Flames licked at the top story of the sprawling eight-floor granite structure, the largest in Sofia. The fire was put out shortly after 3 a.m., about five hours after it began.

The general prosecutor's office announced Monday that of the more than 50 people arrested in connection with the arson, 39 were being held but had not been charged.

State radio said vandals attacked the building before the fire, and that looters carried off television sets and computers.

Police turned dozens of people away from the square in the morning apparently on orders to prevent further demonstrations. Some 400 to 500 people engaged in debate outside the police barricades but apparently were not part of an organized demonstration.

Police blocked roads into the capital, and travelers from the airport had to take a circuitous route into the city.

Police chief Col. Hristo Velichkov

issued a statement saying police had been ordered to "use the whole range of ways and means to restrain extremism and law-breaking."

"When peaceful means prove ineffective, (police should) resort to physical force and truncheons, crowd-control by mounted police, dogs, water cannon and, in an emergency, tear gas," Velichkov was quoted as saying by the state BTA news agency.

Socialist Party leader Alexander Lilo charged that "reactionary forces" were behind Sunday's attack on his party's headquarters. He said these included "the hawks that are among the (political) opposition."

The assault was condemned, however, by the Union of Democratic Forces, the opposition coalition of 16 parties. Party leader Petar Beron said Monday that the arson was committed by "irresponsible elements."

"Do not let yourselves be provoked, keep the public peace, calm down the impatient," said a statement by the coalition, which holds 144 seats in the 400 member Parliament. The Socialists won 211 seats in the June elections.

UDF spokesman Stoyan Ganev charged there was a power vacuum in the country.

Police chief Col. Hristo Velichkov

## Report says SAT scores sink again

NEW YORK (AP) — Warning reading could become a "lost art" among high school students, the College Board reported Monday that SAT scores sank for the third consecutive year. Verbal averages dropped to their lowest levels in a decade.

Scores on the verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test last year fell 3 points to 424 — the lowest since 1980 and equal to the lowest levels since annual averages were first compiled in 1971.

Scores on the math section averaged 476, unchanged for the fourth straight year.

The steady, four-year slide in verbal scores from a recent peak of 431 in 1986 is "disturbing but not particularly surprising," said College Board president Donald M. Stewart.

"Students must pay less attention to videogames and music videos and begin to read more."

Blame for the poor verbal scores rests with parents and schools, Stewart said in an interview.

"The requirement to read through homework has been reduced. Students don't read as much because they don't have to read as much," he said.

"Reading is in danger of becoming a lost art among too many American students — and that would be a national tragedy."

Among the few bright spots in the gloomy report: Women's math scores reached their best levels in 16 years, scores of American Indians rose a combined 13 points, and black test-takers continued a 15-year trend as the most improved ethnic group.

The SAT, taken by 1.03 million college-bound high school students, is a two-part multiple-choice exam, each scored on a scale of 200-800. It is sponsored by the College Board, and administered by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. It is the predominant college entrance exam in 22 states.

Scores on the ACT, the college entrance test that predominates in 28 states mainly in the Midwest and West, will be released Sept. 11.

The SAT has become the single most often-cited barometer of the nation's educational progress, or lack of it.

This year's scores and the stagnation in student achievement that they suggest will almost certainly fuel public doubts about the success of the decade-old school reform movement.

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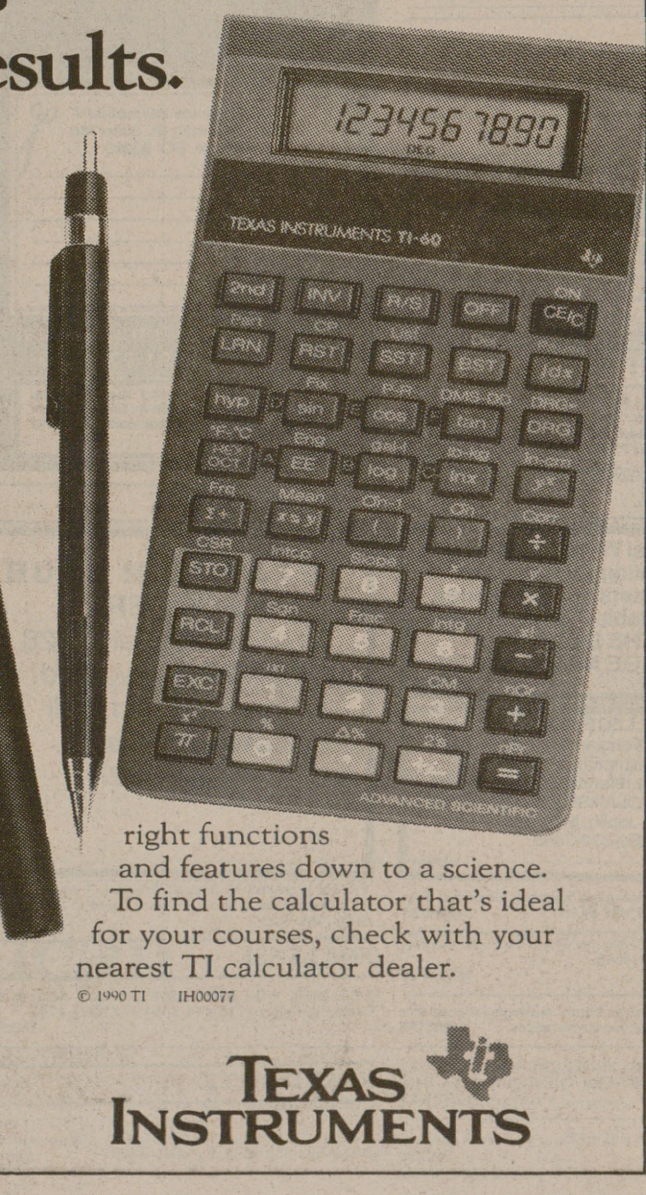
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