

## Who killed Dr. King?

Americans were shocked last winter when evidence surfaced that the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover persistently harassed Martin Luther King, even to the extent of sending him an unsigned letter urging him to kill himself because "your end is approaching . . . you are finished." The suspicion immediately arose that the FBI might have been less than zealous in investigating King's murder—and even that FBI officials might have had a hand in the assassination.

Writing in Washington's *Newsworks*, investigator Mark Lane has now charged that a one-time high-level FBI agent was instrumental in removing potential black witnesses from the scene of the murder before the shooting.

The director of Memphis' Police and Fire Departments was then Frank C. Holloman, former FBI agent in charge of the office in Atlanta, where King lived, and for eight years the FBI inspector in charge of Hoover's personal office in Washington. Despite the volatile situation in Memphis, Holloman reduced King's police stationary security from ten men (on a previous visit) to two, based at a firehouse near King's motel. Then, hours before the murder, he summoned from the firehouse Detective Ed Redditt, a black officer who headed King's stationary security at the request of city civil rights leaders. Holloman announced to an incredulous Redditt that a Secret Service man had flown to Memphis to relay reports of a conspiracy to murder Redditt, and ordered him home in the company of other officers. Upon arriving, Redditt heard the bulletin: the man he was assigned to protect had been shot. Two days later, Redditt was allowed to return to work. He told Lane: "What about the contract on my life? . . . I never heard another word about that during the last eight years."

The night before the murder, the only two black firemen at the firehouse had been transferred inexplicably to another post, leaving the station understaffed, *Newsworks* said.

Holloman told Lane he was innocent of any wrongdoing. But these and other better known but similarly bizarre events—plus James Earl Ray's insistent post-trial claims that he did not kill King—are likely to lead to a reopening of the investigation into the murder. After all, it was the FBI that conducted the original investigation. Members of Congress' Black Caucus are privately pressing for a new investigation while publicly claiming they're still making up their minds. Why the low-key stance? Members are said to fear the power of the FBI to block the inquiry unless it is launched properly,



TED ROZUMALSKI/BLACK STAR

King: investigate the investigators

and to fear that, if the case is publicized, potential witnesses might start to disappear—forever.

## Seventies

### No smoke

The drought in Europe may be getting more press attention, but in this country, at least, the drying up of marijuana supplies is creating greater anxiety.

"Promises! Promises! All I get are promises," moans Stuart, a 30-year-old Boston dealer who only last May was moving more than 150 pounds a week. "I talk to people and they claim to have grass, but when I try to buy more than an ounce it's all gone." Grass supplies usually sputter in July and August, but this summer has been the worst in memory.

In Washington Keith Stroup, director of NORML, a group that lobbies for the legalization of pot, laments that he must now pay \$50 an ounce for the ordinary Mexican grass that used to cost \$25. The best Colombian and Asian varieties now

bring as much as \$100 an ounce.

The dope dearth is confirmed by the other side of the law. Sergeant Detective George Peters of the Boston Police Department narcotics unit says there haven't been any marijuana arrests in his city for more than two months. "We haven't been receiving any information," he says, "so we're assuming there's nothing around."

### Don't need a weatherman

Elliott Bayly's radio station may have a limited audience, but its power source is nonetheless a unique bridge between alternate energy and modern technology.

KFMU in Oak Creek, Colorado, uses the slogan "Sound of the Wind" for good reason. The FM station is powered by an aging 2,700-watt Jacobs windcharger. Typical of the type used extensively on early American farms, the windcharger provides the sole power to run the transmitter and microwave antenna for the station.

The unique setup is made possible by strong mountain winds and the fact that KFMU's listening area is so concentrated. When the wind dies or mechanical foul-ups occur, the station has periodically gone off the air, Bayly says. But generally the 500 residents of the local mountain valley get FM stereo music in all styles, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. each day.

The 36-year-old Bayly, a former Northwestern University electrical engineering teacher, takes it all in diffident stride. "I figured that the wind was there," he says, "and we might as well use it."

### Daddy longlegs

What's this? A crafty alien with a mesmerizing voice plans to lure the nation's teenagers into wanton sexual activities—without the protection of birth control? Galloping guacamole! He's going to take the babies to toil as



NANCY PALMER PHOTO

Weighing weed: the dry season