

Photographer also an Informant

Insider captured iconic images of Dr. King

A Tennessee newspaper has revealed that famed civil rights photographer Ernest C. Withers was a paid informant on the everyday activities of Memphis' black commu-

"[FBI] reports portray Withers as a prolific informant who, from at least 1968 until 1970, passed on tips and photographs detailing an insider's view of politics, business and everyday life in Memphis' black community," Memphis' Commercial Appeal reported Sept. 12 following ment in 1955 to the Little Rock school a two-year investigation.

Withers captured iconic images of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the night King was shot in Memphis.

A veteran freelancer for known as "the original civil rights photographer," an insider who'd covered it all, from the Emmett Till murder that jump-started the move-



Ernest C. Withers

crisis, the integration of Ole Miss, and the 1968 sanitation strike that

The newspaper's report, reveals America's black press, he was how Withers provided the FBI with details about where King was staying and information on his meeting with black militants on April 3, 1968 — the day before the assassination. ers for spying.

It found FBI reports indicating that Withers collaborated for years with FBI agents monitoring the civil rights movement. Those FBI reports, the paper's Marc Perrusquia writes, "reveal a covert, previously unknown side of the beloved photographer."

Withers is certainly beloved in Memphis, where a namesake museum is scheduled to open next month. It remains to be seen how these new revelations may affect Withers' legacy.

The Memphis paper reports how Withers' spying assisted J. Edgar Hoover, the controversial FBI director who long covertly monitored King and others considered radicals. Withers, the paper notes, gave the bureau a "front-row seat to the civil rights brought King to Memphis and his and anti-war movements in Memphis." In the 1960s, he provided information on everyone from the Invaders — a militant black power group — to church leaders, politicians and business owners. Experts believe the FBI paid With-

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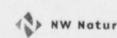














The Oregonian



Predatory Lending Lawsuit Fails

A federal judge has dismissed Baltimore to file a narrower comfor a second time Baltimore's lawsuit against Wells Fargo & Co. claim- impacts. ing predatory lending practices disthe city.

connection" between the banking giant's conduct and the city's alleged injuries.

filed in 2008, in January but allowed problems."

plaint dealing only with economic

"We have contended from the criminated against black borrowers beginning that the challenges Baland led to foreclosures that harmed timore faces cannot be attributed to the small number of loans Wells U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Fargo foreclosed in the city," said Motz of Maryland said an amended Cara Heiden, co-president of complaint did not provide a "causal Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. "Even the city has acknowledged that long-standing crime, unemployment and socioeconomic is-He previous dismissed the suit, sues have contributed to the city's

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Are you or your co-workers be- Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Humboldt Garden, 5033 N. Vancouver Ave.

> The Urban League of Portland, Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry and the Fair Housing Council of Oregon will be hosting the event to help you understand your rights and what you can do to protect yourself from discrimination in the workplace and housing.

For information or to RSVP, call Local community advocates will Donna Brown at 971-673-0781 or the offer some help with a forum on Urban League at 503-280-2600.