

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Struggle

cont'd from pg 18

Harry Belafonte. Pollard has interviewed historians, journalists and participants but we mostly only hear them. That means the commentary of someone like Andrew Young — a civil rights hero himself, a King confidant and longtime politician — gets mixed in and on par with a historian who has no first-hand knowledge. Something about that is off.

The director also

weaves in scenes from old pulpy movies like “Walk a Crooked Mile,” “Big Jim McLean” and “I Was a Communist for the FBI,” as well as newsreels with booming voices and soaring music. Somehow they strike an odd note juxtaposed with intimate King home movies and news footage of bloodied Black men and women being hauled away by cops.

The film is ultimately crippled by something out of the makers’ control. We are told that after the FBI makes a salacious tape and sends it to King’s wife, King “un-

dergoes a real emotional crisis. And it’s an emotional crisis that the FBI is listening in on.” But we can’t listen to any of it. All surveillance tapes are under seal and the earliest they can be released is 2027.

Pollard also offers threads of interesting avenues only lightly explored, like what happens when those secret King recordings are made public. Some feel that historians may be complicit if they investigate information that they shouldn’t have in the first place. And Hoover’s personal life as a motive

for his anger at King is only lightly described.

But those are questions for another time. For now, watch “MLK/FBI” and marvel at how a man could inspire so

much and keep his cool while a vise was closing all around him.

“MLK/FBI,” an IFC Films release, is not rated but has footage of bloodied protesters and

descriptions of sex, including rape. Running time: 102 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Online: <https://www.ifc-films.com/films/mlk-fbi>



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Drive-through Vaccination

Tamara Bass, a medical assistant with Neighborcare Health makes sure she has the correct information before administering a Covid vaccination Thursday January 7, during a drive through vaccine clinic for healthcare workers in Renton, Wash. Three healthcare organizations, Neighborcare Health, HealthPoint, and Country Doctor participated in the clinic.

Albina Ministerial Alliance Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Program



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