



Slaying cases intertwine in 'cop hater' investigation

[FIRST Edition]

USA TODAY (pre-1997 Fulltext) - McLean, Va.

Author: Gary Fields
Date: May 30, 1995
Start Page: 07.A
Section: NEWS
Text Word Count: 281

Document Text

THE NATION

A man officials say hated and stalked police officers was killed Monday after he ambushed and killed an FBI agent on a stakeout.

In a bizarre twist, police say that after Ralph McLean, 29, was killed, they found the gun that was used to kill a Prince George's County, Md., police officer and that officer's stolen gun. But McLean, who was wanted for the January shootings of two District of Columbia police officers, hadn't been a suspect in that killing.

Complicating the case, Prince George's County officials say Jeffrey Gilbert, 26, who was badly beaten during his arrest, remains their prime suspect.

"It is absolutely baffling," says Christopher Griffiths, Gilbert's lawyer. "They've got the murder weapon, a man who has every indication of being a sociopath and a cop hater. . . . There's absolutely no connection between our client and Mr. McLean. This crime was just the act of a madman." He said he'll try to have Gilbert released today.

Authorities said when they searched McLean's apartment, they found writings that indicated he hated police.

Monday morning's events started when authorities staked out a Greenbelt, Md., school, looking for McLean. FBI agent William Christian Jr., 48, was sitting in a car when McLean sneaked up and "assassinated" him, said FBI spokesman Frank Scafidi.

McLean was chased to a nearby shopping center and shot after he wounded a police dog sent in to flush him out.

FBI Director Louis Freeh says Christian's slaying by a "suspected police killer is a chilling example of an unprecedented disregard for authority by some in our society. . . . We should all recognize this as a wake-up call."

[Illustration]

PHOTO,b/w,Sharon Natoli,The Washington Times

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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