

# Producer Riley files suit against ex-bandmate

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Rhythm-and-blues producer Teddy Riley, who led the Grammy-winning group Blackstreet, claims he was slandered by a former bandmate.

A \$2 million lawsuit filed Friday in Virginia Beach Circuit Court says former Blackstreet member Chauncey Hannibal defamed Riley on MTV and on radio shows by playing a rap song that says the producer stole from him.

"The lyrics ... imply that Riley is an unethical and dishonest person, that he engages in unethical and underhanded business practices," the lawsuit says.

Riley also wants the court to order Hannibal to stop playing the song, called "Shame on You," and making further accusations.

Hannibal, who goes by the stage name Chauncey Black, told The Virginian-Pilot the song doesn't mention Riley.

"I never said his name in that song," Hannibal said. "If you want to take it like that, OK. The truth hurts. But I never said his name."

Blackstreet, formed in 1993, won the best R&B group performance Grammy in 1998 for "No Diggity." The band broke up last year.



## BLACK LOVE POWER

*The Power of Black Love* — "How To Love A Black Woman" — which focused on loving black women, debuted in Las Vegas over the Memorial Day weekend at the West Las Vegas Theater. The play was written and directed by René Mattison Margary. Margary also wrote all the songs. Greg Wright handled music. *Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard*

## Ziggy Marley cancels Austria gig in protest

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Reggae star Ziggy Marley canceled a planned performance in Austria to show his opposition to a far-right party in the federal government.

Marley, son of Bob Marley, was to have performed June 17 at the annual Spring Vibration Festival in Wiesen. Festival spokesman Alexander Swoboda said Marley's agents informed organizers of his cancellation.

Marley "does not want to play in a country with a Nazi in the government,"

Swoboda said, citing a statement from the agents.

He was apparently referring to Joerg Haider, the former leader of the Freedom Party, whose past comments in praise of the Nazi era contributed to a decision by 14 European Union countries to impose sanctions on Austria. Dozens of musicians and other performers have canceled participation in Austrian events to show their opposition to the Freedom Party and its participation in government.

## Slow pace makes mission interminable, yet tolerable

**Kam Williams**  
*Sentinel-Voice*

The name John Woo (*Face Off*) is synonymous with gruesome and high-impact special f/x. More specifically, a la the late Sam Peckinpah, Woo is known as the purveyor of that alternating slow-mo/speed-up technique which choreographs the action as a blood-splattered ballet.

The human brain is easily transfixed by this curious juxtaposition, hypnotized while the adrenaline pumps, as if watching a never-ending train wreck.

Which is exactly how I felt while screening the never-ending *Mission Impossible 2*. When in high gear, the film is a riveting thriller which plunges headlong into stuntwork of death-defying magnitudes. But the operative word there is 'when'. An unbearably long two and one-half hours, the movie has more dead spots than dead bodies.

The story simply suffers from too much down time despite its spectacular rock climbing, dare-devil parachuting out of doomed jetliners, a motorcycle duel to the death, frenzied car chases, rappelling into skyscrapers, automatic weapons battles and, of course, hand-to-hand martial arts combat.

The film remains highly

recommended, despite the editing oversight.

This sequel is still a big improvement on both *Mission Impossible*, the movie (1996) and the original television series (1966-1973). The television show starred Peter Graves as Mr. Phelps, the leader of the IM (Impossible Mission) Team which specialized in carrying out covert operations flawlessly. That team included Barbara Bain as the coquettish Cinnamon Carter, Greg Morris as the brainy Barney Collier, Peter Lupus as strongman Willy Armitage and Martin Landau as confidence man Rollin Hand.

Woo turns the basic idea of *Mission Impossible* on its head, which was to complete each assignment so subtly and smoothly as to avoid any detection.

This bungling bunch, however, embraces the idea of drawing as much attention to itself as possible. To this end, Tom Cruise returns as IM Team leader Ethan Hunt, world traveler, bon vivant. We first find Ethan scaling rocks in the Utah desert.

"Good morning, Mr. Hunt..." begins the familiar refrain by Swanbeck (an uncredited Anthony Hopkins). By way of video sunglasses, Ethan learns that bio-terrorist Sean Ambrose (Dougray Scott), a nefarious Scotsman,

is on the loose and holding the free world hostage with a nasty vial of viruses.

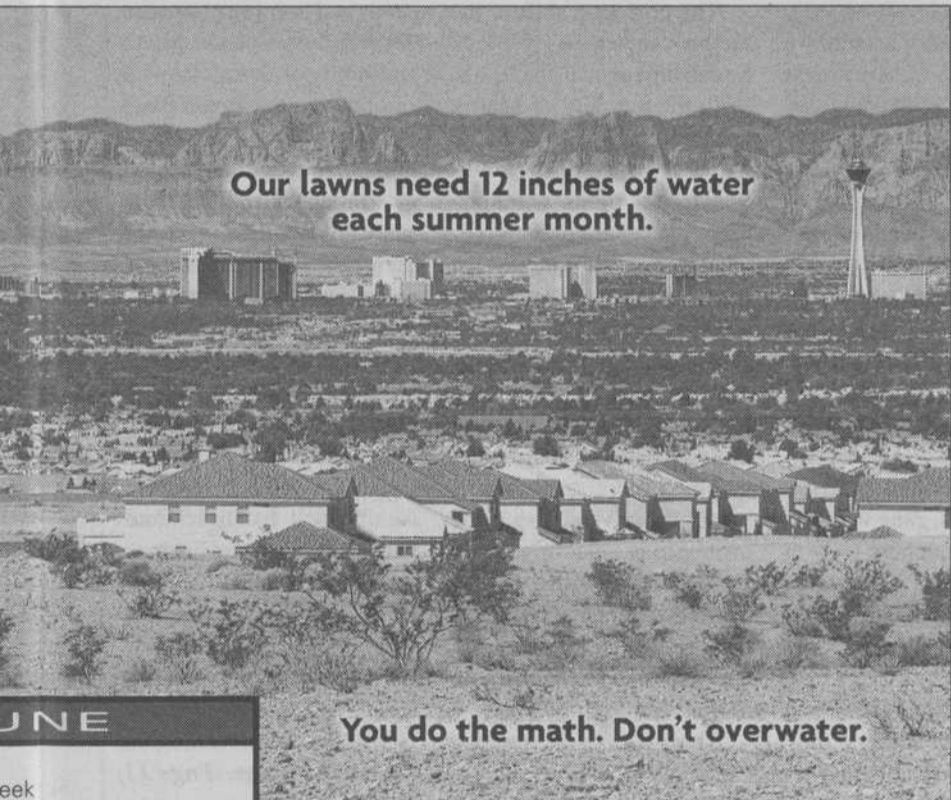
Before the glasses self-destruct, Ethan is informed of the other members of his team.

There's Ving Rhames (the only other actor returning from *MI-1*), reprising his role as computer whiz Luther Strickell and John Polson as teammate Billy Baird, a wise-cracking Aussie. And then there's Zimbabwean beauty Thandie Newton (*Beloved and Besieged*) as Nyah Hall, a jewel thief personally recruited by an instantly enamoured Ethan.

Nyah is needed not for her safe-cracking but for her lovemaking skills, which Ethan samples. As an ex-girlfriend of the evil Ambrose, her job is to seduce the hazardous materials out of his mean little mitts. But unlike the IM Team of old, everything goes kablooy for this crew. And when all else fails, they fight. This translates into the aforementioned display of weaponry, pyrotechnics and special effects on which John Woo has staked his claim to fame.

This review will self-destruct in five seconds.

*Very Good (3 stars).*  
*PG-13 (but could've received an R) for special f/x festival of death through the theatrics.*



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## Puff Daddy settles lawsuit over 1991 party

NEW YORK (AP) — Rap mogul Sean "Puffy" Combs has agreed to pay an undisclosed sum to a young woman who was injured in a deadly stampede at City College of New York 8 1/2 years ago.

Wednesday's settlement with Nicole Levy, 25, closed the last of several lawsuits that were filed against Combs, rapper Dwight "Heavy D" Myers and CCNY over the 1991 event that left nine people dead.

Levy, who had been personally invited to a celebrity basketball game and dance in CCNY's gymnasium by Combs, was one of dozens injured at the bottom of a staircase that led to the gym door.