

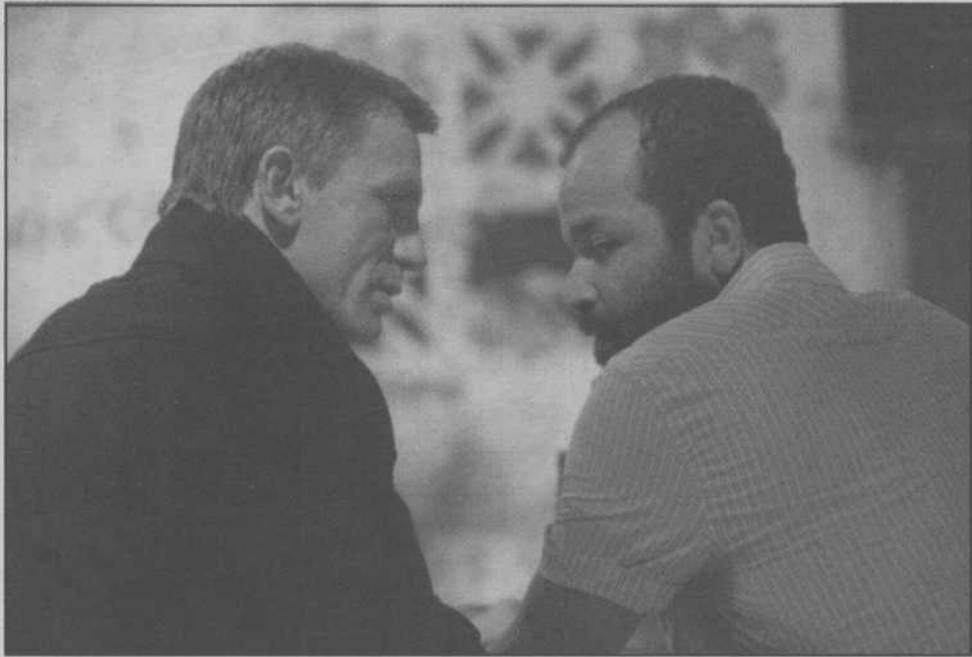
# Craig injects kinetics into Bond

By Kam Williams  
Sentinel-Voice

Beyond the blond hair, there's something decidedly un-Bond-like about Daniel Craig as 007. Perhaps it has to do with how his unassuming earthiness contrasts with the relatively-patrician pretensions of such predecessors as Roger Moore, Pierce Brosnan and especially Sean Connery. Be that as it may, Craig is back for an action-oriented, globe-trotting adventure apt to disappoint fans anticipating the suave spy's sophisticated airs and other staples of the storied franchise.

For instance, instead of the peripatetic playboy's trademark parade of a bevy of beauties, this flick finds him fairly obsessed with understanding why he had been betrayed in "Casino Royale" by Vesper (Eva Green), his late love interest from that picture. In fact, Bond becomes so desperate in this endeavor that he roughs up as many good guys as bad.

This development frustrates the director of the British Secret Service, M (Dame Judi Dench), who suggests "I think you're so blinded by inconsolable rage that you don't care who you hurt." Then, when James continues to behave irresponsibly, his boss cancels his passport and credit cards, strips him of his license to kill and summarily calls him in from the proverbial cold, because, "When you can't tell your friends from your enemies, it's time to go."



"Quantum of Solace," with Daniel Craig and Jeffrey Wright, joins the James Bond canon.

As a result, this version of Bond is a rogue agent who operates sans the futuristic firearms, armored sports car and other state-of-the-art accoutrements ordinarily equipped by M16's genius inventor, Q, a beloved character conspicuous in his absence here. Nevertheless, "Quantum of Solace" does offer about double the amount of gun play, fist-cuffs, foot chases and pyrotechnics, plus all the automobile, motorcycle, airplane and speedboat derring-do of the typical 007 installment. The problem is that the movie no longer feels like a Bond film when stripped of its eagerly-anticipated earmarks, but looks suspiciously similar to a high-octane Jason Bourne affair in terms of non-stop stunts and its unflappable protagonist's inscrutable demeanor.

What does remain intact is Bond's familiar mission to save the world from a diabolical villain bent on world domination. In this case, the creep is Dominic Greene (Mathieu Amalric) whose benignly-named Greene Planet Corporation has for some reason been quietly acquiring ecological preserves around the planet by any means necessary.

007 discovers that Greene is a member of Quantum, the shadowy brotherhood of thieves implicated in the death of Vesper. Thus, the solution to her suicide conveniently dovetails with cracking the case. Along the way to finding answers, Bond encounters a couple of fetching temptresses in Strawberry Fields (Gemma Arterton) and Camille (Olga Kurylenko), a disenchanted gun moll of Mr. Greene. But

he's far too consumed with kicking butt from start-to-finish to pause for anything more than a perfunctory appreciation of their pulchritude.

Unfortunately, Bond the bon vivant and charming ladies man who would flirt with Ms. Moneybags and anything in a skirt is nowhere to be found. Woefully underdeveloped except for the array of exotic backdrops and the display of fighting skills, this incarnation of 007 is too busy taking on wave after wave of equally-impersonal adversaries for romance or the subtleties of espionage.

A hyperactive James Bond whose attention-deficit antics ought to resonate with the restlessness of the Joy-stick Generation.

Good (2 stars). PG-13 for sexuality, violence, and intense action sequences.

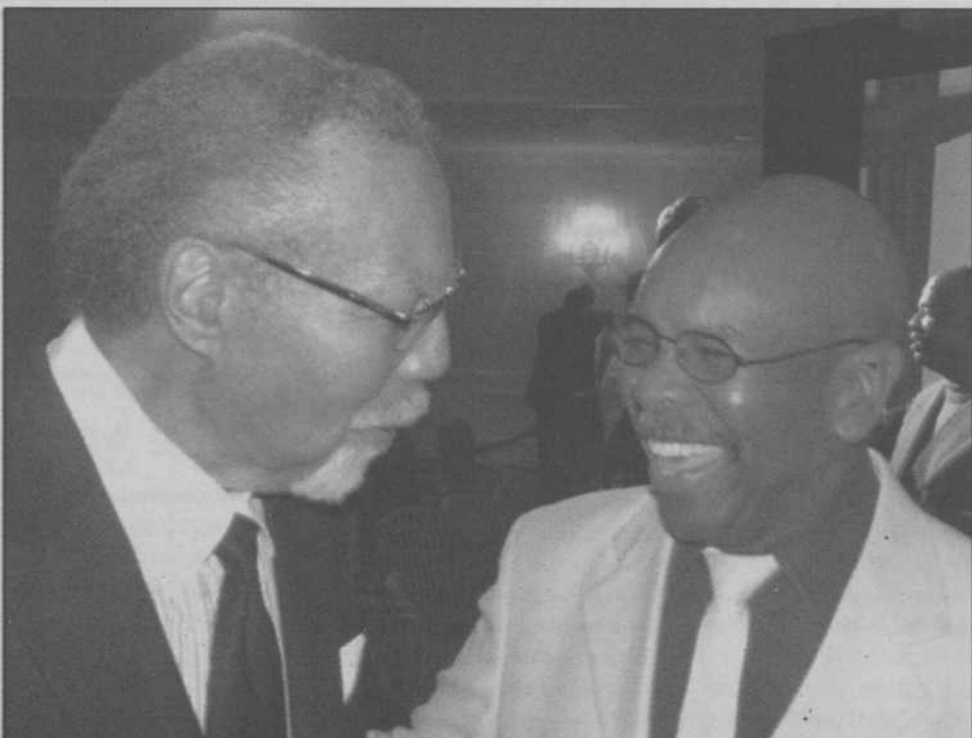
## Who's Who

(Continued from Page 6)

inclusion in the historic guide. Said entrepreneur and author Farrah Gray: "I am truly honored to have a book that chronicles our story as opposed to 'his' story. We, too, have built this country and like tiny snow flakes, we will unite and become one."

"This book will allow youth to identify those who are working behind the scenes in order to support those who are on the scene," Barlow said.

Rosie Boulware, a 40-year local resident, appreciated the spotlight on positive African-American accomplishments. Her sons were the first Blacks from Las Vegas accepted into Harvard University. "This is the first time that there has been something positive in Las Vegas that has paid tribute to Black professionals, outside the entertainment world."



Las Vegas icon Dr. William H. "Bob" Bailey, left, chats with international entertainer Bubba Knight during the unveiling reception of the inaugural edition of the Las Vegas Who's Who in Black Las Vegas. More than 800 attended the unveiling of the guidebook.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

## Bits 'n' Pieces

### Divas to present Senior Prom

The Doolittle Red Hat Divas will be presenting a senior prom at the Nevada Partners event center on Saturday. The Red Hat Society is a women's "disorganization" based on the concept that growing old can be fun and frivolous. Some of the women in the group were never able to attend a prom growing up due to racism or discrimination in their home town. For more information call Lucille Bryant at 702-649-1473.



Lucille Bryant

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### In wake of family deaths, Jennifer Hudson launches campaign



Jennifer Hudson

(TMS) — On the heels of the tragic shooting deaths of her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew, singer-actress Jennifer Hudson last week announced she was launching a campaign against crime and violence in inner city African-American communities. Hudson reportedly told a *Chicago Sun Times* columnist that she plans to use a foundation she and her sister recently established "to reduce the daily killings in inner city communities across the nation." The Hudson-King Foundation for Families of Slain Victims will also provide care to families who have lost a love one to violence. A Hudson publicist said the care will include food, shelter, clothing and grief counseling. Chicago police have not officially charged anyone in the Hudson family killings but a "person of interest" is in custody.

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### Black women's film festival seeks to combat negative stereotypes

(TMS) — The International Black Women's Film Festival ("IBWFF") has had a reputation for combating the negative stereotyping of Black women in film, media and television since 2000. Now, the organization is inviting others in film and media to do the same! IBWFF announced last week that it is accepting film and video submissions for its 2009 season. Media makers have until December 31, 2008, to submit their work to the festival without a film submission fee. The festival accepts all categories, short film, feature, experimental, music video, digital media, online films and animation. Interested persons can find more information and get registration applications online at: [www.ibwff2009.com](http://www.ibwff2009.com).

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### Rapper Snoop Dogg records tribute to jailed former Black Panther Abu Jamal

(TMS) — Gangsta rapper Snoop Dogg (real name Calvin Broadus) has apparently been bit by the social responsibility bug. It was announced last week that the hip-hop star had teamed up with the British group Massive Attack to record a tribute to jailed former Black Panther Party member



Snoop Dogg

Mumia Abu-Jamal. Abu-Jamal has been sitting in prison since 1989 for the killing of a Philadelphia police officer. But supporters charge the one-time reporter was a victim of racist justice. His case has drawn international support. In fact, developments in the case often get greater publicity in Europe than in America. The song "Calling Mumia" will be heard in a new documentary about Abu-Jamal entitled "In Prison My Whole Life."