

# **JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK**

## **MONDAY - 01/15/2008**

**Unlike James Bond, the political pundits today make sure that any candidate's speech is both shaken and stirred!**

### **HOW DID THE TERM "PUNDIT" ORIGINATE?**

***Origin:* 1672, "learned Hindu," especially one versed in Sanskrit lore, from Hindi *payndit* "a learned man, master, teacher," from Sanskrit *payndita-s* "a learned man, scholar," of unknown origin. The importation of "*pundit*" into English is a relic of the British occupation of India, and "*pundit*" in the more general sense of "learned person" or "scholar" first appeared about 1816.**

***Definition:* A critic or authority on a subject, especially in the media. Once this term had a positive connotation, but over time this honorable word came to mean "print journalist who hangs out on Sunday morning television talk shows pretending to know what's really going on in Washington."**

**Incidentally, "*candid*" from the Latin word "*candere*" originally meant "to be white or pure," and later to be "honest." Because citizens running for political office in Roman times wore white togas, they were known as "*candidates*." As the centuries have passed, that meaning also become tainted, which was clearly depicted in the film, *The Manchurian Candidate*.**

**M of Z: Today, pundits politicize just as much as the candidates**