

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 43

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

February 19, 2009

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Holder: We avoid race talk

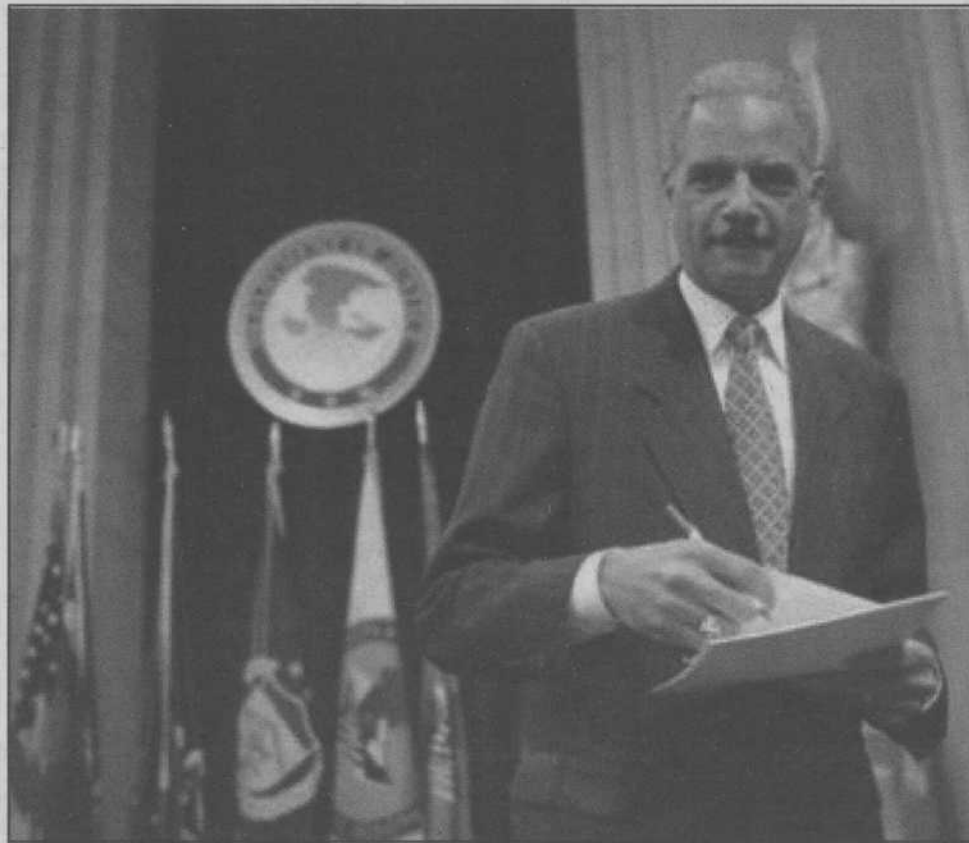
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON — Eric Holder, the nation's first Black attorney general, said Wednesday the United States was "a nation of cowards" on matters of race, with most Americans avoiding candid discussions of racial issues. In a speech to Justice Department employees marking Black History Month, Holder said the workplace is largely integrated but Americans still self-segregate on the weekends and in their private lives.

"Though this nation has proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot, in things racial we have always been and I believe continue to be, in too many ways, essentially a nation of cowards," Holder said.

Race issues continue to be a topic of political discussion, but "we, as average Americans, simply do not talk enough with each other about race."

Holder's speech echoed President Barack Obama's landmark address last year on race relations during the hotly contested Democratic primaries, when the then-candidate urged the nation to break "a racial stalemate we've been stuck in."



Attorney General Eric Holder signs autographs at the Justice Department in Washington on Wednesday after making remarks commemorating African-American History Month.

Holder cited that speech by Obama as part of the motivation for his words Wednesday, saying Americans need to overcome an ingrained inhibition against talking about race.

"If we're going to ever make progress, we're going to have to have the guts; we have to have the determina-

tion, to be honest with each other.

It also means we have to be able to accept criticism where that is justified," Holder told reporters after the speech.

In the speech, Holder urged people of all races to use Black History Month as a chance for honest discus-

sion of racial matters, including issues of health care, education and economic disparities.

Race, Holder said, "is an issue we have never been at ease with and, given our nation's history, this is in some ways understandable... If we are to make progress in (See Holder, Page 2)

Group stresses helping others

*By Sheila Thompson
Special to Sentinel-Voice*

As the economy worsens, the local chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women is working to empower citizens to take control of their financial futures. The five-year-old group's recent economic empowerment symposium, "Managing in a Down Economy," drew more than 100 guests eager to learn how to survive in an atmosphere where news about foreclosures, job loss and unemployment grows grimmer each day.

Representatives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Bank of Nevada, NV Energy, Southwest Gas, the Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League, Prudential Americana, financial planner Mitzi Wilson and the Sidhu Law Firm addressed a vast array of topics, from navigating the credit markets and avoiding foreclosure to understanding bankruptcy laws and using special payment plans offered by utilities. The event was held at the Dr. William U. Pearson Community Center.

Phyllis Hargrove, of HUD, discussed a variety of options for low- to moderate income individuals to avoid foreclosure and urged to be diligent in avoiding the scams of too-good-to-be-true scams that have snared many well-meaning homeowners.

"People need to network and learn what is available," said Marsha Meacham-Williams, the group's public relation's chair. "People need to be made aware that payment plans are available prior to facing foreclosures."

It's not all doom and gloom, of course. And Mitzi Wilson urged those with the discretionary income to do so to invest in homes, IRAs, practical jewelry and authentic artwork, as these items are relatively inexpensive right now and should grow in value over the years.

Madeline Anzinger, of NV Energy, encouraged the company's clients to take advantage of the utility's rate reduction programs and its initiatives on increasing en-

(See 100 Women, Page 5)

NY Post cartoon seems to link Obama, dead chimp

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — The *New York Post* is standing behind a cartoon that some have interpreted as comparing Presi-

dent Barack Obama to a violent chimpanzee gunned down by police.

The cartoon in Wednesday's *Post* by Sean

Delonas shows two police officers standing over the body of a bullet-riddled chimp. One of the officers says the other, "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill."

Civil rights activist Al Sharpton called the cartoon "troubling at best given the historic racist attacks of African-Americans as being synonymous with monkeys."

But Sharpton said the *Post* should clarify the point it was trying to make with the cartoon, which was playing off Monday's rampage by a pet chimpanzee in Stamford, Conn., that left a woman severely mauled. Police ended up killing the chimp.

In a statement, *Post* Editor-in-Chief Col Allan said: "The cartoon is a clear parody of a current news event, to wit the shooting of a violent chimpanzee in Connecticut. It broadly mocks Washington's efforts to revive the economy. Again, Al Sharpton reveals himself as nothing more than a publicity opportunist."

A story about the cartoon on the liberal-leaning Huffington Post Website drew hundreds of reader responses, many calling the cartoon racist and insensitive.

Sam Stein, a columnist for the site, wrote that "at its most benign, the cartoon sug-

gests that the stimulus bill was so bad, monkeys may as well have written it.

Most provocatively, it compares the president to a

rabid chimp. Either way, the incorporation of violence and (on a darker level) race into politics is bound to be controversial."



This cartoon image provided by the *New York Post* appeared in the *Post*'s Page Six on Wednesday. It sparked controversy.



During the presidential campaign, this shirt caused a stir for equating then-Sen. Barack Obama to a smiling monkey.