

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 49

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

April 2, 2009

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Judges ruining too many lives

By Nisa Islam Muhammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice

(NNPA) — Judges are taking kickbacks for imposing harsh sentences on youth; Judges are giving equal time for unequal participation in crime; and a cradle to prison pipeline sends more Black and Latino juveniles to prison than to college, say advocates, who proclaim that juveniles looking for justice are receiving more injustice.

"In America, a Black boy born in 2001 has a one in three chances of going to prison in his lifetime, and a Latino boy a one in six chance, and yet we spend nearly three times as much on every prisoner as we do per public school pupil," said Children's Defense Fund President Marian Wright Edelman, during a recent conference.

"We gathered in California — which houses the largest prison system in the United States, incarcerating more than one of every nine prisoners in America—to share solutions and strategies for rerouting children on a path to healthy adulthoods and reordering our priorities to save taxpayer dollars."

She added, "We must mount a concerted national effort to dismantle the prison pipeline by eliminating its root causes through implementation of the promising approaches articulated at the summit."

For two days, Feb. 26-27, more than 500 attendees at National Cradle to Prison Pipeline Summit in Sacramento, Calif., shared promising approaches and developed community action plans to stop the funneling of thousands of children down a pipeline to prison.

"As a nation, we can ensure that all children reach
(See Judges, Page 5)

World brass rap economy

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LONDON — President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown exuded optimism on Wednesday about a global deal to help pull the world out of recession, downplaying a rift with French President Nicolas Sarkozy ahead of the imminent Group of 20 leaders summit.

The two met as thousands of protesters gathered in the British capital's financial district, with some demonstrators smashing their way into major bank while others threw eggs and fruit at police.

Obama said there was "enormous consensus" between the world's rich and emerging countries on plans to kickstart the global economy.

But Sarkozy warned that neither his country nor Germany would align with any "false compromises," suggesting that a clear deal was not secure.

Washington has eased off on a push for other governments to pump more money



President Barack Obama, right, shake hands with Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown, at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on Wednesday, after a joint news conference. Obama is in London for the G-20 summit. Economics is a big meeting focus.

into economic stimulus programs after heavy opposition from Europe, but Germany and France are still unhappy that not enough is being done to tighten international regulation to rein in financial market excesses.

The debate has led to lower expectations of what can be achieved at the London summit, which began with a formal dinner on

Wednesday. Business meetings are underway, even as the crisis reaches a critical point.

Global trade is plummeting, protectionism is beginning to make inroads and unemployment is rising. Public anger is also inflamed — protests on Wednesday turned violent in some places, with some demonstrators throwing things at

riot police. Others smashed windows to scramble into a Royal Bank of Scotland building after police managed to hold back protesters trying to storm the Bank of England. Several people were arrested.

Earlier, in a joint press conference with Britain's Brown after the pair held talks at No. 10 Downing St.,
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Missing Black females still get less media than Whites

By Jan Ransom

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Average looking men, women and children from a variety of economic, social and ethnic backgrounds made up the more than 105,000 active missing persons in America last year, according to the National Crime Information Center. However, national media operations often fail to present what is in fact a very diverse missing persons population — African-Americans. And some observers believe race is the factor.

"There is a culture in America that tends to sym-

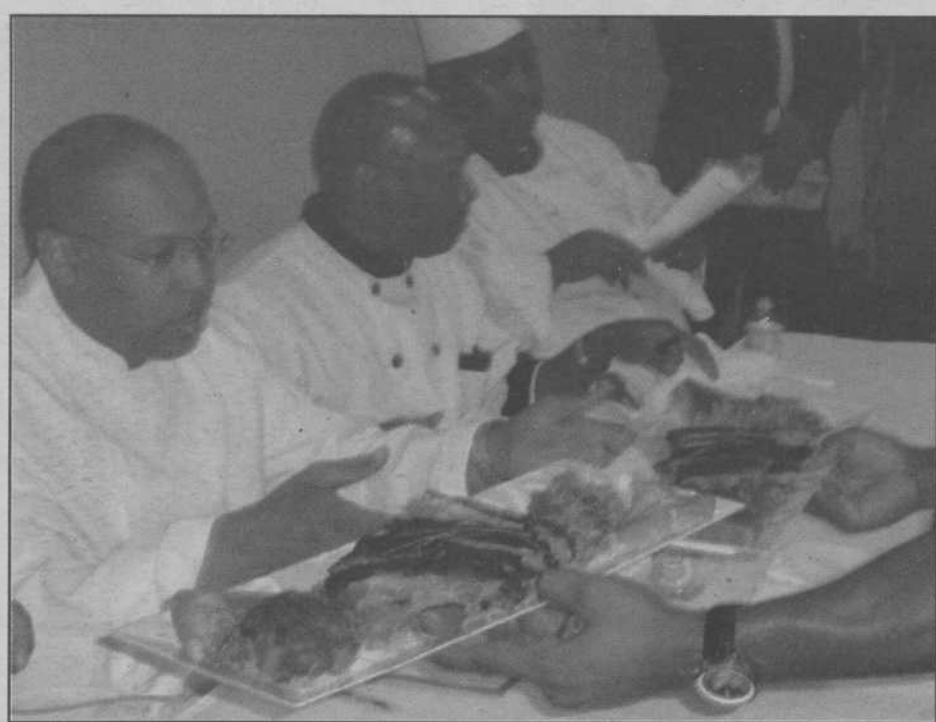
pathize with the blond, White woman instead of the braided, Black woman," said Ernie Suggs, vice president of print for the National Association of Black Journalists. "There has always been a certain level of interest, a certain fascination with White missing persons... Americans identify with who they want to be."

For example, Latasha Norman, a 20-year-old, Jackson State University honor student from the Mississippi Delta city of Greenville, had been missing for more than two weeks when her body was found on Nov. 29, 2007, in a wooded area in Jackson.

Norman's boyfriend, Stanley Cole, 24, was charged with her murder. Her story received little national coverage and was quickly glossed over by CNN.

Thousands of miles away, the disappearance of Stacey Peterson, a 23-year-old, mother of two from Bolingbrook Ill., whose police officer husband is a primary suspect in her Oct. 28, 2007, received national media attention for weeks. Her case was updated regularly on CNN, MSNBC and other major news stations in great detail. Peterson's story was featured in a number of ma-

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Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

BBQ IT UP

Celebrity Chef Jeff Henderson, formerly of Caesars Palace and the Bellagio and now a Food Network reality show star, grabs a platter of winning ribs on Saturday at the first Charity BBQ Battle. The fundraiser, held at Nevada Partners, benefited Southern Nevada Children First, a nonprofit that helps teens who are homeless, pregnant or parenting. James Cole and his team from Top Notch Barbeque took top honors from the judges and got the People's Choice Award.