



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Colima Bailey was among several forum participants.

Silk Purse

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call feature, which means that the offeror can buy the stock back from you. You can generate high single digit rates of return by investing in preferred stocks, and knowing that you have the security that it can be called from you at or higher than the rate you paid for it."

Concluding, Snyder spoke about indexed CD's and bonds.

"Indexed linked CD's, certificates of deposit, issued by banks or a government agency, have a principal guarantee feature. So regardless of what the market is doing, in a 5 or 6 year period, you can invest in an indexed linked CD, and know that your principal is going to be returned at the end of the investment period, offering a minimal return that is generally higher than money market

rates of return."

"Investing in Bonds over the past 3 years has been the 'best performing asset class.' You can stagger the maturity on the bonds, your interest rate is fixed, you know how much you're going to receive and when it's going to be paid, and you know when that investment is going to mature. It takes the risk out of the equity market. If you're conservative, you may want to stay with government bond portfolio's or triple "A" rated companies. If you venture out into the high yield market, or what is considered the junk bond market, there is a bit more risk, but it offers you a potential for higher rates of return," stated Snyder.

Sharing some information in reference to his recently released book that deals with investment and empowerment, Ernest Fountain told the audience, "Real Estate is the safest investment that you

can make in America. With all the money that is being stolen out of Wall Street, they cannot pick up my real estate and put it in their pocket. In 1997, I paid \$131,000 dollars to build my office building in downtown Las Vegas, and now that building is worth \$535,000 dollars. Living here in Las Vegas, where the economy has been booming for the last 15 years, we have had the #1 economy for the last 12 years, we are the fastest growing city in America, and America being the strongest economy in the world, but yet we as a people are being left farther and farther behind."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Silk Purse Investment Group are encouraged to contact Mary Houston, Secretary, at 702-647-7922.

Overstreet

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that too!

So far, am I doing a good job of scaring you to death? Good, if this is the case. Folks, based on my life's experiences, one of the truest statements I ever read is the quote by the Englishman, John Philpot Curran, who way back in 1790 stated, "The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance."

Just in case some of the dudes I grew up with "down the way" in Cleveland read this quote, I had better break it down for them. "The Main Man blessed you with some sense. You better use it to keep your eyes on 'the man', cause he ain't got your best interest in mind and is always looking for some lame excuse to 'bust' you any way he can."

The use of racial profiling is one of the lame excuses 'the man' will use to bust you here in Nevada, as the study documented. However, some law enforcement officials are still in denial about what the study documents. Therein lies the problem of race being the major unresolved domestic problem in America. The justice system in America, to include local and state law enforcement officers, is dominated by persons of the majority culture. In part, that is why you have a gross over representation of persons of color in the prison system. Recently, by adding private sector profit motive to building and

operating prisons, you can bet the justice system will keep providing the prisons with enough of us so that this new enterprise will remain a highly profitable undertaking.

However, I must hastily add, all is not lost! They are some courageous people trying to combat the effects of racism in our society regardless of race and gender. While I usually bash persons of the Mormon faith for having a strangle hold on public sector employment and contracting in Nevada, I must also point out that U.S. Senator Harry Reid, who is a Mormon, is a battler for human and civil rights.

He and a number of his U.S. Senate colleagues have introduced the Equal Rights and Equal Dignity for Americans Act of 2003. It's a great piece of proposed legislation which includes prohibitions against racial profiling, enforcement of all the civil rights laws on the books, and provide for civil liberties protections.

Whether you are a Democrat, a Republican, or a nonpartisan person you should give Senator Reid's office a call and ask for a copy of the bill and also while you are at it, ask what you can do to help pass the bill out of Congress and onto the President's desk to be signed into law. This great and caring man's office number is 388-5020. Will you make the call for all of our sakes? Thanks, I (we) need that!

Urban

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money was being spent in New York."

It's that well rounded background that the board of directors at Carver Bancorp saw when they hired her in June 1999. With \$440 million in assets and 110 employees, Carver operates five full-service branches in the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan.

Wright endured the same issues that may exist in Dallas.

"What that snapshot (of a community) misses is all the families that are working, the people that are coming in every Sunday for church and the tourists," said Wright. "There's a lot of money that's changing hands, but the difficulty for our people, particularly in the inner cities, is keeping it there, as opposed to seeing it just fly over the neighborhood."

Wright's masterly structured programs have managed to cut through the political hang-ups that in the past have defied inner city development. She feels some parts of the rest of the nation still have a lot to learn.

"As a country, we really have a lot of ambivalence about public money supporting businesses," said Wright. "Frankly, it's a little bit of a hypocrisy, because we know that Fortune 500 companies get a lot of support from the federal government (a tactic often described as "corporate welfare")."

The daughter of a Baptist minister and a school-teacher, Wright moved to Dallas at age 12 and attended Marsalis Elementary and Atwell Middle schools before graduating from Dallas Carter High in 1975. She went on to Harvard, graduating from its law school and also earning a masters in business adminis-

tration.

"She was always really focused," said Harryeta Hill, Wright's younger sister and the one family member who has remained in Dallas. "She possesses lots of integrity and dedication. I think she was like that growing up and she's still like that today."

Wright credits high expectations from her parents as feeding into her drive to succeed. Her sister concurs.

"There was never any question that we were to do well in school, go to college and strive to be the best we can be," said Hill, a business manager at Neiman Marcus. "My parents believe strongly in education. They believe in you keeping your word and treating other people the way you want to be treated."

Through Carver Bancorp, Wright not only wants to see continued success in Harlem, she yearns to see the same inner-city prosperity take place in other cities, including Dallas. The real estate council she spoke to has provided assistance to several housing projects in South Dallas and Oak Cliff. But more needs to be done. That includes reestablishing a Black-owned bank. The last one, Sunset Bank, closed down in the early 1980s.

"The Black business people, I assume, are engaged and are contributors to various elected officials," said Wright. "They need to challenge those folks to step up. There are resources out there. You can't ask the private sector to solve a public problem. Somebody's got to fill in he gap. In my view, that's the role of government."

Gordon Jackson writes for the Dallas Weekly.

Action

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which, according to a recent story in the *New York Times*, has provoked "dozens" of significant American corporations to prepare to file briefs with the Supreme Court in support of affirmative action.

And it's that clarity of vision which has caused officials to the nation's service academies — the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, and the United States Air Force Academy — to proclaim the value of their own use of

affirmative action in admissions.

Finally, it's that clarity of vision about the value of affirmative action which Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy captured when he said, referring to the military academies, "Clearly, diversity in our military is a national priority. But it's also a national priority for our colleges and universities, which are the gateways to opportunity. If we followed the administration's policies, we'd be a lesser nation, a lesser society."

Curry

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since World War II." As a result, they are cutting back on services and increasing college tuition. The fiscal year beginning July 1 will present states with deficits ranging from \$71 billion to \$87.8 billion. A provision to allocate \$6 billion to states to help ease that pain was eliminated from the original plan.

The tax proposals were part of the \$2.2 trillion budget Bush sent to Congress on Monday. If the budget is adopted, it would lead to an unprecedented deficit of \$304 billion this year, topping his father's previous high of \$290 billion in 1992. The deficit is projected to reach \$307 billion in 2004. Over the next five years, the deficits would total \$1.08 trillion.

After declining for two consecutive years, the number of uninsured Americans rose in 2001 by 1.4 million,

from 39.8 million to 41.2 million, including 8.5 million children, the Census Bureau reported.

Budget proposals submitted by the self-described "education president" represent the smallest overall increase in education in seven years and fails to adequately fund the "No Child Left Behind Act."

Bush's proposed budget provides only a 3.6 increase in funding to historically Black colleges and universities.

The institutions, while enrolling only 18 percent of African-American students, produce more than 40 percent of Black college graduates. Bush's 3.6 per cent increase stands in sharp contrast to the 15 percent increase in each of Bill Clinton's last five years in office.

Furthermore, instead of

keeping his campaign pledge to provide up to \$5,100 in Pell Grants to low-income students, the Bush 2002 budget proposed \$3,850. Congress increased the limit at \$4,000, which is where Bush's fiscal 2003 budget would leave it.

The president is trying to link some federal programs to the stock market, even though the market lost \$2.8 trillion in 2002, according to the "Wall Street Journal." Since the value of stocks peaked in 2000, investors have lost approximately \$7 trillion.

With the "State of the Union" being in this shape, it's no surprise that Bush is eager to go to war with a country the United States government once supported.

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