

Andrew Young to head pro-Wal-Mart group

(AP) — Former United Nations ambassador and Atlanta mayor Andrew Young will be the public spokesman for a group organized with backing from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. that defends the world's largest retailer against mounting attacks from its critics.

Working Families for Wal-Mart, a group of community leaders from across the country, was set to announce Monday that Young will be the chairman of its 16 member steering committee formed in December to counter charges from two union-backed groups that are pressuring Wal-Mart to im-

prove wages and benefits.

Young said he will be a public face for the group, giving interviews and publishing opinion articles defending the company.

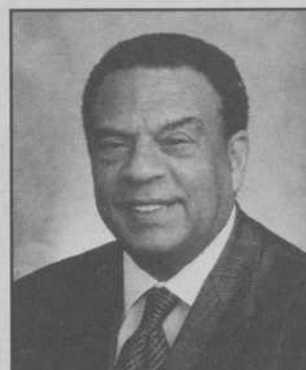
"They are some of the best entry level jobs that are available to poor people. And they also make products available to the working poor," Young said in a phone interview from Atlanta.

The ordained minister, three-term U.S. congressman and former mayor of Atlanta currently heads GoodWorks International, which pairs corporations and governments on global issues.

Young said he is not be-

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Corporate spokesperson



ing paid but that GoodWorks has a contract from Working Families for Wal-Mart for consulting work. Wal-Mart is the largest financial backer of the group.

Working Families for

Wal-Mart declined to disclose how much Wal-Mart contributes or what it is paying GoodWorks.

Wal-Mart's critics, including the groups WakeUpWalMart.com and

WalMartWatch.com, have attacked the company for not providing more health coverage and for other practices. Maryland's legislature overturned a governor's veto of a bill that would require Wal-Mart to spend more on employee health care or pay the difference into the state's Medicaid fund.

Wal-Mart and other large retailers have had fights with cities over attempts to locate new stores in crowded areas. Critics say the stores compound the problems of congestion. And Wal-Mart is the target of numerous lawsuits, including a pending class action in California in which

the company is accused of discrimination against women in pay and promotion.

Young, himself a former union organizer, said he decided to get involved because he believed much of the criticism levied at Wal-Mart by unions was one-sided and wrong.

"The union position is talking about the redistribution of wealth, but they're not talking about generating new wealth. Wal-Mart is generating new wealth when it comes in," he said. "The pluses outweigh the minuses. They do give benefits, they do have health insurance."

Outrage: Guards, not sickle cell, caused boy's death

By K. Chandler

Special to Sentinel-Voice

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (NNPA) - On Jan. 5, Martin Lee Anderson, 14, began a six-month stint at the Bay County Sheriff's Office Boot Camp in Panama City, one of five such camps throughout the state under the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice. The youth had been remanded to boot camp for trespassing on school property, a probation violation on an earlier charge of grand theft stemming from a June 2005 incident in which he took his

grandmother's 1996 Jeep Cherokee while she was in church one Sunday, to go joyriding with friends.

What was supposed to have been a rigorous, six-month-long, tough-love type of disciplinary program, instead, turned into a death sentence for Anderson who died under what some are calling highly suspicious circumstances, just one day after he arrived at the North Florida boot camp.

According to officials from the Bay County Sheriff's Office, guards at the juvenile detention facility restrained the youth

after he refused to cooperate with drill instructors during exercises that were included as part of the facility's intake process.

There is speculation over whether a beating sustained by the youth as captured on a camera was the cause of his death or other cause.

District Medical Examiner Dr. Charles F. Siebert Jr., who conducted the autopsy, ruled that the 14-year-old's death was related not to internal injuries sustained as a result of a beating, which was seen on the tapes once it was released to the public, but rather to ex-

cessive exercising which touched off an unexpected "blood reaction" caused by his "sickle cell trait" (never before diagnosed) and that his bruises and lacerations were the result of efforts to resuscitate him.

A surveillance videotape of a beating sustained by Anderson shows six to eight guards wrestling the 140-pound youth to the ground after which he is repeatedly struck on the arm and the right side of his torso. During the course of the beating, he is punched and kned by guards as he lay on the ground of

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Trio

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added, "We help kids from sixth grade all the way up through college, regardless if they're an adult... We have an adult G.E.D program, as well."

The event also honored outgoing UNLV president Dr. Carol C. Harter, among other honorees, for strongly supporting the programs. The keynote speaker for the evening was the Honorable Johnnie B Rawlinson, the first African-American woman to be appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The original TRIO programs were created in 1965 under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Since then, Congress has funded these programs to help low-income Americans attend and graduate from college.

There are over 2,700 TRIO programs across the country, serving nearly 866,000 low-income and first-generation Americans between the ages of 11 and 30. Over 1,000 colleges and universities across the country have TRIO programs which are funded through a competitive grant process.

The ethnic composition of TRIO students is 37 per-

cent White, 35 percent African-American, 19 percent Hispanic, 4 percent Native American, 4 percent Asian-American, and 1 percent is listed as other. More than 22,000 students with disabilities and more than 25,000 U.S. veterans are currently enrolled in the TRIO Programs, according to 2005 statistics for the Council for Opportunity in Education.

According to statistics, students in the TRIO Upward Bound programs are four times more likely to earn an undergraduate college degree than students who were not participants in the programs. Since 1965, an estimated 2 million students have graduated from college with the special assistance and support of TRIO. Students in the TRIO Student Support Services program are more than twice as likely to remain in college as those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in the program. There are nearly 20,000 students enrolled in the programs in Nevada. All programs are free to those who qualify, and each program has different eligibility requirements.

In addition to the UNLV campus, programs are currently operating at Truckee

Meadows College, University Nevada Reno and, most recently added, Community College of Southern Nevada.

In 2001 and 2002, the retention rate for participants in the TRIO Student Support programs at UNLV, was nearly 95 percent, and the graduation rate was 20 percent higher than their peers who did not participate in any of the programs.

This year, President George W. Bush proposed a cut in funding for Gear Up and TRIO programs in his fiscal 2007 federal budget. This would eliminate the free services provided to many low-income students which include tutoring, homework assistance, after-school programs, career exploration and field trips to colleges and universities.

U.S. Congressional Representative Shelley Berkeley received the 2006 TRIO/Gear Up Pioneer Award and stated she would not vote in favor of the current budget unless the president reintroduces funding for TRIO/Gear Up Programs.

She encouraged everyone in attendance to contact their local and state elected officials to ensure that the programs are not excluded from the federal budget.



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