

Young touts Rainbow Dreams

Shirley Savage-Hampton
Sentinel-Voice

Former United Nations Ambassador and Civil Rights Activist Andrew Young delivered a lecture Saturday on the campus of UNLV. Ambassador Young is participating in the Anthony L. Pollard Foundation's second speaker series.

The Anthony L. Pollard Foundation was formed in 1990 to provide scholarships to disadvantaged high school seniors and it also provides funding for the month-old Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School. Young spoke in an exclusive interview with the *Sentinel-Voice* prior to his lecture at Doc Rando Hall.

Young's life's foundation is rich with educators. His mother was an educator; his former wife, the late Jean Childs Young, who has a middle school named after her in Atlanta, Ga., was an educator; his current wife and daughter are educators. So the importance of learning is ever-present in his surroundings.

Young stated that he was not a particularly good student when he was going to school, but he had a wonderful grandmother who encouraged him.

If he happened to be unlucky enough to get a teacher who did not believe in him and made a discouraging remark to him, he did not believe it, because he already knew who he was when he walked out of his grandmother's door. She had already told him how smart and intelligent he was and that he could do anything. Thus, he had a sense of self; his grandmother had given him a proud definition of self. He wears and exhibits that intellect and confidence today and shares it on a global scale.

He has traveled to Africa and other parts of the world sharing and communicating the importance of education.

Young "Pays it Forward" everyday. He came to Las Vegas in that spirit and shared his experience and encouragement to advise the youth of the Rainbow Dreams Academy.

He shares his wisdom and the importance of a good education and the struggles that he and others took on in order that future generations could also learn and pass on the blessings.

S-V: What is the importance of having a curriculum that focuses on multicultural



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Former Atlanta Mayor and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young is surrounded by students from the Rainbow Dreams Academy. Young spoke about education at UNLV on Saturday.

studies and particularly emphasizing African-American studies at the Rainbow Dreams Academy?

Young: "Children have to know where they come from before they can move forward. If children have no sense of self and who they are, what their purpose is or the richness of their heritage, they will have low self-esteem and believe that what others [Euro-Americans] show and tell them about themselves is their truth."

He continued, "What the Pollards are doing at the Rainbow Dreams Academy is really great. They are committing time and resources into our most precious commodity — our children. They are giving them a solid foundation through the all-day kindergarten program and through the multicultural curriculum, math, science, and technology."

S-V: Do you think there is a connection between the lack of respect our youth exhibit toward themselves and others by using the [n- and b- words] and that real or expanded versions of African-American History are not being taught in our public schools and at home?

Young: "No. I think that government policy has hurt us more than anything. When poor welfare mothers had to kick or remove fathers out of the house because they would not qualify for welfare if the father remained in the house, this broke up families. They also could no longer have grandmothers living with them either to help raise their children."

He added, "I have no problem with the way our young people talk. They are simply expressing themselves and their life experi-

ences. Our young men are coming into their manhood on their terms. They are coming in being entrepreneurs, not having to work for anyone. Look at Usher, P. Diddy, Jay-Z and others. They eventually find their way."

S-V: Would you like to comment on the Jena Six situation and the march lead by Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson?

Young: "I feel that we need to do more to make our voices heard at the polls. We need to focus more on voter registration and effecting policy through the people we elect into state and local offices. We need to show those that feel helpless how to help themselves through the voting polls."

He spoke further on the subject, "We need to have our feet and education, firmly planted in the political process so we can effect policy, thus the public dialogue and, most importantly, our futures. And we must remember and recognize that we all need to find ways to 'Pay it Forward,' meaning giving and reaching back to help others."

On spirituality and faith, he said, "We need to reflect more of the character of Christ in our walk, talk and politics. We need to have actions and politics that reflect kindness, compassion, inclusiveness; the desire to reach out and understand others through listening, thus gaining understanding."

Workshop views violent behavior

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

The Z-HOPE: Zetas Helping Other People Excel workshop on "Stopping Intimate Partner Violence" is Saturday at 4 p.m. in the Sahara West Library boardroom at 9600 W. Sahara Ave. This event is free and open to the public.

The host organization, Theta Omicron Zeta is the Las Vegas Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., a "community-conscious, action-oriented international organization of college-educated women."

Z-HOPE Coordinator and local chapter First Vice President Cheryl Williams encourages "all ages, men, women and youth" to attend.

The startling statistics are that every 3 seconds a woman or girl is physically abused. Williams illustrated that by pointing out, just in the duration of the phone interview with the *Sentinel-Voice*, how many women — one every 3 seconds — are abused "by someone they know."

Abuse escalates and often results in fatal confrontations, according to statistics.

"Show up and be prepared to hear, learn and interact," Williams said, emphasizing the urgency for greater awareness and action to save lives.

Z-HOPE, Zetas Helping Other People Excel, is a national service initiative that is Zeta's response to the state of America's health.

"They [national] have given us 10 indicators to focus on, which includes violence, heart, health and obesity... things that are basically in the health agenda of America today," Williams said.

African-Americans are at greater risk in many of the focus areas.

"We've been charged on the local level to initiate programs and undergird [those initiatives] in our local community. We are partnering with organizations who work in the area."

Safe Nest, Clark County's largest and most comprehensive agency devoted solely to domestic crisis issues, will conduct the one-hour presentation Saturday.

The series of community awareness and action programs will focus on ten leading health indicators that include physical activity, substance abuse, injury and vio-

(See Abuse, Page 3)

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