

CHILD ABUSE IS ‘EVERYONE’S BUSINESS’

The recent Child Abuse Symposium hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service provided the ideal forum to bring attention to issues affecting Tobago’s children.

This is the view of Beverly Lewis, manager of Tobago’s Probation Hostel, who was speaking at the event, held on Friday at Gulf City Mall in Lowlands. The Hostel caters to children ages ten to

18 who have suffered abuse, neglect or homelessness. Lewis said more must be done to protect children from abuse.

“I am very concerned about the rise of child abuse in Tobago. Is it that we are not being cautious as parents or guardians of other children? What is the problem?” Lewis asked.

“Today is an opportunity to come together to look at this problem and

make decisions as to how we will address it. For too long, we have been silent. For too long, we have not moved forward to deal with this matter.”

During the symposium, senior social worker Donnalyn Harry reminded attendees that “child abuse is everyone’s business”, and urged everyone to report suspected cases to relevant agencies like the Child Protection Unit.



SIBLING LOVE: Peter Morgan, right, and sister Una Morgan perform with the band Morgan Heritage during the opening night of the Tobago Jazz Experience at the Speyside Recreation Ground on Saturday (April 22).

‘SMOOTH OPERATIONS’ EXPECTED FOR S.E.A.

Nine hundred and ten students from 42 Tobago primary schools are gearing up to sit the Secondary Entrance Assessment Exam next Thursday (May 4).

And the authorities are expecting “smooth operations” on the day. Monitors and assessment supervisors have already been selected for the exams, and will be trained this Thursday (April 27).

Marisha Osmond the Assistant Secretary in the Division of Education, Innovation and Energy, also had a special message for the students.

“This is an important time for all students involved and it is important that you (students) remain calm and trust in all the preparation and hard work invested,” Osmond said. “Give it your best shot.”

TOBAGO FILMS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Tobago Jazz Experience is “more than just music”. It’s proving this tagline true with the introduction of the Tobago Jazz Film Festival, which was launched on Saturday (April 22).

The event is a result of collaboration between the Jazz Experience and the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival (TTFF). TTFF founder and director

Bruce Paddington said the idea behind the Tobago Jazz Film Festival is to put Tobagonian film industry into the spotlight.

The first three days included free screenings of Tobago-based films international and such as “Miles Ahead”, “Chico and Rita” and Tobagonians Jared Prima’s “Redman” and Kyle Walcott’s “Glass Bottom Boat”.

The festival also provided a one-day film production and scriptwriting training workshop.

“We have to make sure these workshops have a long doing benefit for Tobago,” Paddington said. “Because people will learn techniques from filmmakers and hopefully they will be inspired to make their own films and use the skills they have learned.”