



The Mannhattans have done it again

By: Jovel Johnson

People of all ages turned out at Beaches Boscobel Resort last Thursday to listen to the unconquerable sound of The Mannhattans. The Grammy award winning R&B group gave a splendid performance that had the audience begging for more at the end of their act.

Rev. Lee Williams (lead vocals), Charles 'Charming Charlie' Hardy, Alvin Pazant (bass), and the only original member of the group, Edward 'Sonny' Bivins, are as dynamic now as they have been in the past. They gave the crowd what they expected by doing some of their top hits like 'There's no me without you', 'Dance to a love song', 'Let's just kiss and say goodbye', 'Shining Star', and 'It feels so good to be in love so bad'. Those number one hits had old and young alike singing and rocking.

Although they had to perform without fifth member, Carsey Hiphill who's recovering from an illness, they were in top form being comical at times and carefully wooing the ladies in the audience. Also, as promised, Rev. Williams, who is a real deacon, 'took us to church' with his deacon-like performance.

The Times spoke to the original member of the group, Edward Bivins, and he spoke of the group's performance and the group in general. "We've been going on 40 years

now with some of the members changing. The original lead singer, George Smith died along with the original bassist. Other members went on to do their solo careers. But through it all, we've always been a group," he said.

Though it is not the group's first time to Jamaica, it is their first time performing at Beaches Boscobel Resort. Don't think this is the group's last visit. "The crowd's reception was great and I love, absolutely love Jamaica. We'll be back," Mr. Bivins promised.



THE MANHATTANS AT BEACHES BOSCOBEL: (From left) Lee Williams, lead vocals; Alvin Pazant, bass; Ruth Garnett, Sales manager, Beaches Boscobel; original member, Edward Bivins, and Charles Hardy.



The Mannhattans doing a dance routine at the concert held at Beaches Boscobel on Thursday night, May 20.

Pennicooke lauds travel agents for contribution to tourism industry

By: Alesia Edwards

Director of Tourism Paul Pennicooke, has lauded travel agents for the tremendous work they have been doing over the years in helping to market Jamaica as the number one tourist destination in the Caribbean.



Director of Tourism, Paul Pennicooke

According to Mr. Pennicooke Travel Agents accounts for the vast majority of visitors to the island, as they are integral partners in the growth and development to Jamaica. Arrivals to Jamaica Mr. Pennicooke explain was the best in any year as the island welcomed 1.35 million in stopover arrivals, which represent 6.6 % more than the previous year.

The director, has he outlined the successes within the industry noted that stop over arrivals for the year have increased. A number of new-charted airlines from Europe he said have begun to airlift passengers from Belgium, Austria and Switzerland.

"Thanks to you our travel agents partners we are on this very positive growth part. He continued, that our product as well as service will continue to improve and sustained market effort as we continue to ensure that Jamaica retain its position as the premier destination in the Caribbean.

Mr. Pennicooke continued to explain that Jamaica continues to attract exciting new investment as he outlined several new

hotels, which are under construction. Among some of those is the Rio chain, where one was recently opened in Negril and another will be constructed in Mammee Bay, St. Ann.

Mr. Pennicooke was speaking to over ninety Travel Agents and Tour

Representative on Saturday, May 15, at the Ruins at the Falls. The Travel Agents and Tour reps were treated to a weekend of activities in the Ocho Rios/Runaway Bay area. The Ocho Rios/Runaway Bay chapter of the Jamaica Tourist and Hotel Association (JHTA) coordinated the event.



A wide variety of Ocho Rios' finest in art which normally attract a lot of attention from tourists were on display at the Ruins Restaurant.