

## Entertainment Briefs

### CHURCH TO HOLD GOSPEL BRUNCH, SILENT AUCTION

St. James The Apostle Catholic Church will be hosting a gospel/jazz brunch and silent auction on Oct. 17, at the Suncoast Hotel & Casino. The event will last from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. All tickets will be pre-sold. For more information please contact the church office between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at (702) 648-6606.

### MUSICIANS HONOR RAY CHARLES WITH CONCERT

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) - An eclectic lineup of musicians honored Ray Charles in a tribute concert, praising the late singer's rich life and his ability to transcend race and musical genres. "Make no mistake about it, there will be no pity party," said music producer Quincy Jones, who met Charles when the two were teens. Jones told the packed audience at the Beverly Hills Hotel last Wednesday night that Charles "lived more lives than any 900 of you. In his last days, he told me, 'Man, I've already lived it all.'" Performers included Stevie Wonder, country singer Travis Tritt, former Doobie Brother Michael McDonald, and R&B artists James Ingram and Patti Austin. They sang Charles' hits, such as "Georgia On My Mind," "What I'd Say" and "Hit the Road Jack." Bill Cosby was host of the event, which raised money for the \$15 million Morehouse College Center for the Arts in Atlanta. Charles gave the Black liberal arts college \$2 million to help fund the complex, which will contain a performance space in his name. Cosby shared some of his favorite memories of the singer, who had been blind since age 7. He recalled how during a jazz festival at the Hollywood Bowl, Charles appeared on stage with a band of all White musicians. "I said to Ray, 'Your band is all White.' He said, 'That's funny. They don't sound White.'" Charles was 73 when he died of acute liver disease June 10.

### LaBELLE HELPS REOPEN NEW JERSEY ARTS CENTER

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. (AP) - Soul diva Patti LaBelle ushered in a "new day" for a reopened performing arts center in Bergen County. LaBelle started her show Saturday night with the gospel song "It's a New Day" for the first official concert at BergenPAC. The formerly named John Harms Center for the Performing Arts, located in downtown Englewood, closed in April 2003 after it could not repay \$2.3 million borrowed for renovations. Jazz guitarist and Englewood resident George Benson was among members of the Bergen arts community who pleaded with the county to help save the center. "You have two choices, to make a positive or negative," LaBelle told the sellout crowd of 1,400 people. County officials approved the issuance of \$1.9 million in bonds to help revive the arts center, to be paid off with future concert revenues. The center also plans a \$15 million capital and endowment drive.

### JAMELIA WINS THREE PRIZES AT BLACK MUSIC AWARDS

LONDON (AP) - Urban music star Jamelia was crowned queen of the ninth annual MOBO Awards when she scooped three prizes. The 23-year-old won best single for "Thank You" and best video for "See It In A Boy's Eyes." She shared the U.K. act of the year award with rapper Dizzee Rascal. The ceremony for MOBO, which stands for music of Black origin, was held Thursday at London's Royal Albert Hall. Supporters of two Jamaican reggae artists protested outside the venue because the artists had been dropped from MOBO's nomination list because of their songs' anti-gay lyrics. Reggae stars Elephant Man and Vybz Kartel were removed from the shortlist following a protest by gay rights group OutRage! As stars including Janet Jackson, Brandy and Lemar arrived on the red carpet, they were booed by the group of about 30 protesters, who waved placards reading: "Defend reggae music" and "Enraged by OutRage!" Inside the theater, Jackson presented the lifetime achievement award to Anita Baker, and was herself inducted into the MOBO Hall of Fame. The award for best R&B act went to an absent Usher, best jazz act to Jamie Cullum and best world music act to Bebel Gilberto.

# Kim Fields urges aid for Caribbean

NEW YORK (AP) - Actress Kim Fields, who recently learned that she has roots in the Caribbean, is enlisting other celebrities to help the region recover from the hurricanes.

Fields is producing public service announcements for television and radio in which actors such as Blair Underwood ask viewers to support an aid campaign sponsored by the Caribbean Tourism Organization and its Website, [www.onecaribbean.org](http://www.onecaribbean.org).

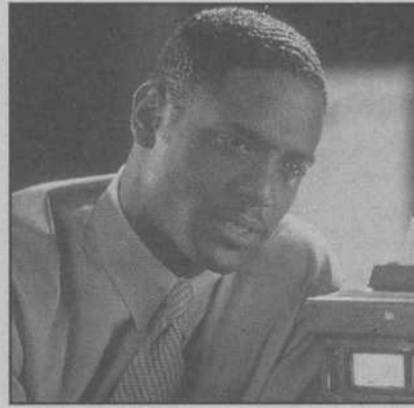
Fields, who starred in the TV shows "The Facts of Life" and "Living Single," also plans to organize a series of concerts to benefit those islands hit hardest by the storms.

"The Caribbean is a favorite vacation spot for many people, myself included," Underwood, whose latest show is NBC's "LAX," says in one of the ads.

"Recent hurricanes have disrupted many Caribbean countries." He then asks viewers to "give generously" to the relief effort.

Fields announced the aid campaign at a news conference Wednesday in New York where she showed the ad featuring Underwood.

She added that "after prodding my 90-something-year-old grandmother, I



Blair Underwood asked viewers to support an aid campaign to help the Caribbean area due to hurricanes.

recently discovered that my great-grandparents are from Jamaica."

She also said she's vacationed and worked in the Caribbean "and enjoyed myself immensely."

Fields said other celebrities who have pledged to help out include actors Flex Alexander ("One on One"), Duane Martin ("All of Us") and Tisha Campbell-Martin ("My Wife and Kids"), and singers Anthony Hamilton and India.Arie.

The majority of Caribbean islands were untouched by the hurricanes, but the storms caused extensive damage on



Actress Kim Fields is producing TV and radio spots asking for philanthropic aid to Caribbean.

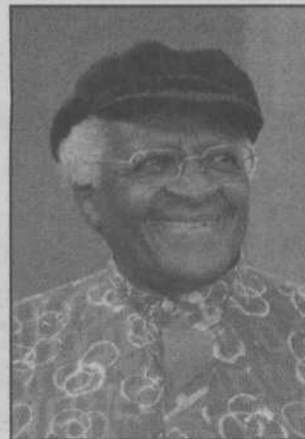
a handful of islands.

Haiti, Grand Cayman, Grenada, Grand Bahama, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grena-

## Tutu portrays judge in 'Guantanamo' play

NEW YORK (AP) - Moving from the pulpit to the stage, Archbishop Desmond Tutu is appearing off-Broadway in a drama blasting the Bush administration's handling of Guantanamo Bay detainees.

The South African prelate and Nobel laureate was to appear Saturday night at a tiny theater in lower Manhattan, playing a judge in "Guantanamo: Honor Bound To Defend Freedom." The



DESMOND TUTU

play portrays the plight of British detainees at the U.S. naval base in Cuba.

Tutu's engagement is limited to two performances; the second is on Sunday afternoon.

Weeks before the U.S. presidential election, Tutu is drawing attention to the treatment of hundreds of suspected terrorists being held by the United States.

Last week, a Briton at Guantanamo said he was tortured and held in solitary confinement for almost two years by the American military — a fate also alleged by other detainees.

The Pentagon says its policy is to treat all prisoners humanely.

The 73-year-old archbishop is viewed as an authority on human rights, hav-

ing spent decades challenging South Africa's apartheid regime — activism for which he won a Nobel Peace Prize.

Earlier this year, Tutu signed a petition on behalf of the families of Guantanamo prisoners urging the British government to demand that the United States immediately release four Britons being held.

"We are appalled that revered conventions are being blatantly flouted such as the dictum that someone is presumed innocent until proven guilty and that everyone is entitled to legal defense of his choice," he wrote.

The play was commissioned by London's Tricycle Theatre after five other British detainees were released.

The work also is playing in London's West End.

New Ventures Capital Development Company,  
The Urban Chamber of Commerce and  
the N.A.A.C.P sponsors a

## Truth In Lending Workshop for Small Business Owners and Start-Up Businesses

OCTOBER 15, 2004  
10:00 am to 1:00 p.m.  
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Conference Rooms A & B

New Ventures, the U.S. Small Business Administration, Black Mountain Community Bank, Desert Community Bank, and Bank of Commerce presents an informative workshop for business owners.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

General information about the Small Business Administration and SBA 504 Loan Program  
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Cash Flow Analysis Process by Bankers  
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For additional information contact  
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