

Letters of love for Nepal

Inside A&E



Will Smith stars in *I, Robot* starting tonight at Liberty Theatre

page 30

Hanging art isn't as easy as it looks. Get some tips from artists and gallery owners

page 27

■ Children who attended this year's Art in the Park wrote touching — and humorous — letters to the children in Nepal

By LEAH FURBERT

IF LETTERS by children who attended the recent Art in the Park celebrations are anything to go by, Bermudian children are very sympathetic to their counterparts in Nepal — and they can't eat pork chops.

The Art in the Park celebrations were held on July 7 and 14 in Victoria Park, and dozens of children turned up on both days to participate in the events. The children were invited to write letters to the children in Nepal, letters which will accompany the mural they drew for the Nepalese children.

Approximately 150 Bermudian children wrote letters to the students of the Tashi Waldorf School in Nepal, a school that has partnered with the Bermuda based ISIS Foundation.

Leonie Exel of the ISIS Foundation said the letters and the mural will be taken to Nepal in November. There were pictures displayed of children in Nepal, as well as photo books and stories written by the Nepalese children.

"Bermuda children were really interested in how kids

lived there, and what the differences were between their lives and the lives of kids in Nepal," said Exel.

"Many were horrified that, generally, children didn't have toys, or enough to eat, or that they were in the middle of a war — they asked loads of questions about where Nepal was and what life was like there."

Many of the letters were illustrated, and included touching and sometimes humorous sentiments expressed by local children of all ages. One child, aged seven, wrote, "I feel sorry for you. I hope I can give you something, some food, money, anything. I hope you are OK." Another seven-year-old asked, "Are you OK in Nepal?"

Some of the letters described a little about life in Bermuda: "I hope you like our mural. I live in Bermuda which is a tiny island shaped like a fishhook! Here it is hot. There is a big colourful reef filled with fish of all colours. Our houses have white roofs made of rock. We have lots of lizards and birds. What's it like in Nepal?" (aged 11).



Organised by Shelly Hamill for the ISIS Foundation, children who attended this year's two Art in the Park days at Victoria Park were invited to write letters and help design a mural that will be sent to the children at the Tashi Waldorf School in Nepal.

■ Photo by Sharon Beesley

Another, age 9, wrote, "Hi! How are you? I live in the island of Bermuda. After looking at photos of your school, it helped me to appreciate what my school has. Best of luck with all your studies. SHOOT 4 THE STARS!"

Two kids, age eight and three-and-a-half, wrote that they "heard about your life"

and "pray that your country gets better and better one day, and sickness will just blow away."

One child, age 3, was seemingly unworried about those in Nepal, writing that, "I can't eat pork chops. My teeth are gone."

The overwhelming favourite letter came from a nine-year-old who simply

stated, "Are you grateful? I am."

The letters will be put into a book for the children in Nepal and translated into their language. The Nepalese children will also be shown pictures of the Bermudian children taken during Art in the Park to give them an idea of what it is like to live in Bermuda.