

# Students join in the FIGHT AGAINST

# AIDS

Last week in Providenciales the National AIDS Programme hosted its biennial Peer Education training program, dubbed HOPPE: "Helping Our Peers Excel", which concluded on Friday July 13, at the Marine Biology Education Centre, Venelian Road.

The training, which is in its 5th year, enabled over 40 students from the HJ Robinson, Majorie Basden, Raymond Gardiner and Clement Howell High Schools from forms 3 - 5, to join other students who benefitted from peer education training and are utilizing the skills and information they gained to influence their peers in their respective schools.



Students from various secondary schools attended the news topic event.



Deputy Director of the National Drug Unit Lester King and Michelle of Health Team, Dr. Ulisse Boyce attended the certificate giving ceremony.



Facilitator Rhonda Thomas demonstrates condom use.



One of the more interesting topics discussed was of what age do young people start having sex?



Ashley Smith (2) prepares to show a fellow participant how to perform one of the newer dances.



A group of now enlightened students.



Sometimes just talking, someone infected with the deadly disease makes a difference as these young titles acted out!



Chief Facilitator Selwyn Lewis looks on proudly.



Hon. Dr. Carlton Mills gave brief remarks.



Students of the HJ Robinson High School prepare to do a skit!



The use of drama to get the seriousness of the message across was greatly accepted by the teens.



National AIDS Coordinator Cherylene Jones.



Each successful participant was presented with a certificate of merit by Dr. Carlton Mills.



The popular youth group skit!



Hon. Dr. Boyce happily presented certificates.



AIDS is everyone's business in the TCi and persons need to be educated from young.



Students from the Majorie Basden High School find time to laugh.



Participant Kendricka Matcorm from the N.J.S. High School.



The final exercise facilitated by Goshelle Gilkes of the B&AC&M.

National AIDS Coordinator Cherylene Jones called the week long event a success and was proud to see so many children, teachers and guidance counsellors attend as the youth have an important role to play in the fight against HIV/AIDS. She thanked The Ministry of Education for their support and was pleased to see young people in the Turks and Caicos Islands showing interest in eradicating this deadly disease.