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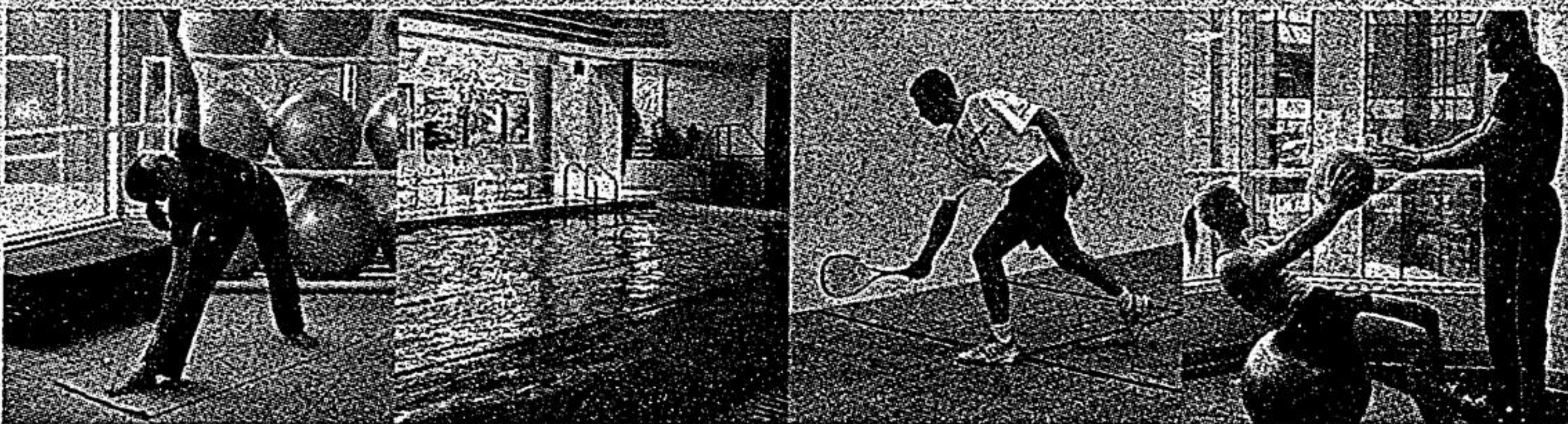
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Haitian flood victims get help tonight

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writer

Eric Pierre felt incredibly sad as he gazed at the photograph on his computer screen.

The picture, e-mailed to him by a friend, showed a group of Haitian villagers standing amongst rubble and rocks. This was all that remained of their homes after rain descended upon the southeast region of Haiti in May, causing rivers to overflow and creating severe flooding.

"It was heart wrenching; I felt the need to do something to help these people," the Unionville resident said.

His wish to reach out comes true today. Mr. Pierre, who came from Haiti almost 30 years ago and is Toronto's honorary consul for Haiti, joins forces with members of several Haitian organizations to raise money for survivors of the floods. The event features an evening of music, poetry, dance and Haitian cuisine.

With a population of almost eight million, Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas. The struggle for food and shelter is constant. Four out of five people live in poverty and only a quarter of Haitians has access to safe drinking water.

Hundreds of homes were destroyed, roads washed out and about 2,000 peo-

ple are estimated to have died in the floods that left 31,000 homeless and destitute.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society launched an appeal May 28 to provide support to the region. The Pierre's Unionville garage is filled with boxes of clothes and food that will be sent to Haiti.

'It was heart wrenching; I felt the need to do something to help these people.'

— Ed Pierre
honorary consul for Haiti

These items were collected by students at St. Matthew Catholic School in Unionville where Helen Pierre, Mr. Pierre's wife, teaches. Net proceeds go to the Haitian Red Cross. The event is at College Boreal at 951 Carlaw Ave. in Toronto. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door tonight for \$50. Donations can be made directly to the Red Cross either online at www.redcross.ca, by calling 1-800-418-1111 or by mailing a cheque to Canadian Red Cross, Haitian Flood Appeal, 5700 Cancross Ct., Mississauga, ON L5R 3E9.

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Daniel Collison, Regional Director of Investors Group Inc., Markham, Region is pleased to announce the appointment of Frank May, C.C.C.E. to the position of Divisional Director.

Frank's current responsibilities of creating tax-effective investment strategies and managing client's assets will not change. Frank will take on the additional responsibility of recruiting, training and mentoring new Financial Consultants for the Markham Regional Office.

Frank celebrates his seventh year with Investors Group and has over 30 years in senior management positions in the Financial Services Industry.

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