

Invading Internet with

By DAVID CUFFY

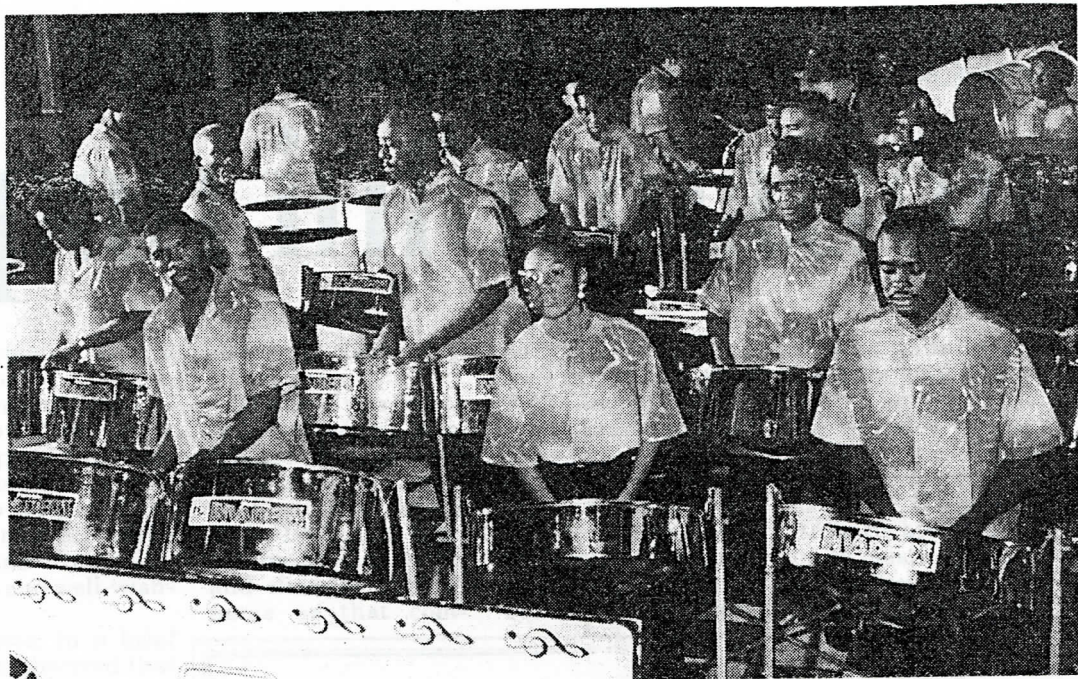
MEMBERS of Petrotrin Invaders Steel Orchestra had every reason to be in a celebratory mood last Sunday at the Petrotrin Sports Club on Queen's Park East in Port-of-Spain.

The occasion was the launch of the band's first compact disc recording and announcement that it had become the first steelband to take the national musical instrument on to the Internet.

Its homepage, hosted by the Tourism Development Company (Tidco) at <http://www.tidco.co.tt/invaders>, is filled with information on the band's history, its performance schedule, links to other steel pan sites and an audio clip from the CD, titled, "An Enchanted Evening".

The recording is a compilation of 14 easy-listening, classical, contemporary and calypso selections, arranged by band captain Nervin Saunders. It includes selections by other Petrotrin-sponsored groups: two by Petrotrin Deltones Steel Orchestra, and accompaniments by the Voices of Petrotrin Choir and Boodoo Singh Tassa Group.

Recorded and mixed by Robin Foster of Engine Room Record-



PETROTRIN INVADERS Steel Orchestra during a performance.

ing and Production Ltd, the disc has a playing time of 74 minutes. Selections are: *With A Song In My Heart*, *Schubert's Serenade*, *Brazil*, *Forever In Love*, *Meditation*, *Wind Beneath My Wings*, *Romance* from *Beethoven's Violin Concerto*, *Some Enchanted Evening*, *Love Changes Everything*, *My Way*, *Can't Help Falling In Love*, *In The Mood*, *Pan In A Rage*, and *Jahaaji Bhai*.

It was also announced, by band manager Ricardo Herbert, that Invaders is expanding its classical repertoire in preparation for an upcoming

tour to Brazil as TT's representatives at that country's Winter Music Festival. The expansion is also in anticipation of the Pan Is Beautiful VIII Steelband Music Festival in November. The band placed third and second in the 1992 and 1994 festivals, respectively.

On hand to share Invaders' joy and merriment on Sunday were the parliamentary representative for Port-of-

Spain South, Eric Williams; Pan Tringbago officers Owen Ser-

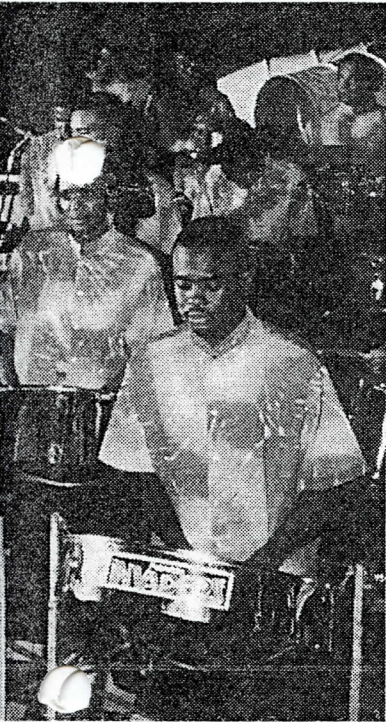
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De Coteau, Député Director of Culture, representing the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Women's Affairs; officials of Petrotrin, as well as members of the steelband fraternity, friends and well-wishers.

Serrette, in a brief address, observed that steelbands were beginning to realise that they "cannot live by playing music in their panyards alone." He expressed satisfaction with Invaders' efforts to turn steelband into a business proposition by going into the recording business.

Formed in 1937 by Ellie Mannette and based "under the breadfruit tree" opposite the Queen's Park Oval on Tragarete Road, Port-of-Spain, Invaders is one of this

country's oldest steel orchestras.

The band was among the first set of steel orchestras to attract a corporate sponsor in the Shell Oil Company in the 1960s. The band became Shell Invaders and changed its first name as that com-

pany's name changed to Trintoc and then Petrotrin.

Invaders has spawned many fine pannists and pan tuners who add to the musical legacy created by the founders. Mannette's younger brother Vernon "Birdie" was tuner and captain for

25 years, while Ray Holman, the prolific composer and arranger, started with Invaders when he was only 13 years old. Offspring such as Anise Hadeed and Ardin Herbert have gone on to create names for themselves in the wider musical world.

