

T.G. Jan. 24. 1989



SIDNEY KNOX - at the Music Festival.



DESPERADOES IN PERFORMANCE - The world's number one steelband performing European classical music. Who wants to stop them and why?

# control the steelband?

now involves sophisticated human organisational charts, both high-powered public relations, international travel and tours, special appearances at the most prestigious concert and cultural halls in New York, London, Melbourne, Tokyo, Paris, Berlin.

The modern steel orchestra now involves glittering super-star artists, famous soloists, highly-paid arrangers and tuners, international hit-records and millions of eager fans.

The modern steel orchestra now encompasses sponsors from the conglomerate and corporate world of international high-finance, involving millions of local dollars annually.

In short, pan today involves modern politics and modern power. It will not be left alone.

Only a fool would ignore statements made about

vital areas in the high-powered sophisticated functioning of the modern steel orchestra.

This is why I think strong disagreement must be expressed publicly with statements made by both Mr. Taylor and Mr. Job.

When a conglomerate giant like Neal and Massy decides to sponsor the highly-gifted, internationally-acclaimed All Stars, one pays the closest attention.

When the pan-nists' own organisation, Pan Trinbago, complains softly that they felt that another business giant, Royal Bank, was too much in control of the last musical Festival, only a fool would not pay attention.

When the Chieftain of the local White capitalist tribe, and Chairman of Neal and Massy, Sidney Knox, is seen uncharacteristically, swaying to the music of All Stars at the last

Music Festival, only the blind will say they can see nothing requiring meticulous examination: it is better to be paranoid than to be stupid.

When Radio Trinidad, and the Guardian, itself a mouthpiece of one of the giant local conglomerate-corporate clan, publishes an article questioning the aesthetic ability of the pannist to play European classical music, and questioning also the technical competence of the pan as an instrument fit to have classical music played on it, only the deaf will refuse to listen closely.

When another article, with the same thrust, appears again shortly afterwards, again in the Guardian, written by a person who has taken positions espoused by Morgan Job, only a complete mental incompetent will not begin to think.

And when all of

this occurs against a background of efforts by Senator Gordon and the NAR Government to re-introduce into Trinidad and Tobago, an insensitive, subservient, racially-insulting tourist industry that demeans especially the ethnic group involved with pan, one pays attention.

Mr. Taylor mentioned the current tourist drive in his article: and when all of this occurs against a background of tourist initiatives that are completely the opposite of what Senator Gordon and Alan Clovis outlined on paper to the Press: when the general thrust of the three articles is that the steelband should play calypsoes and not classical music - something is in the air.

When all of this occurs against a background of teenaged schoolgirls making a bare-breasted movie for

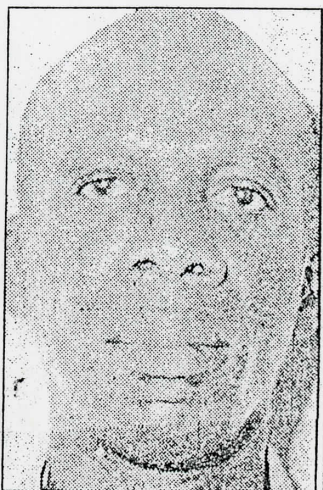
tourist film-makers visiting Tobago: and when Senator Gordon says there will be no government investigation of this disgraceful prostitution of our children for the sake of tourist dollars: and when the same Senator immediately writes letters of apologies to six tourists whose water supply was cut off in Tobago - there are still urban areas in Port-of-Spain that do not have water for days on end - they are ignored.

When all of this occurs against a background of Aubrey Adams, apparently unable to get beyond the concept of Ambakaila, newly appointed to the Tourist Board, having young Black women wining on the wharves for White men from passenger cruise lines, the alert journalist must reach for his sword-pen.

Who is trying to



JEREMY TAYLOR



MORGAN JOB

dissuade our wants them to steelbands from concentrate on hot playing European calypsoes only? And classical music? Who why?