

Trinis stage pan show in Illinois

RAY FUNK and
ANDREW MARTIN

A Web cast will tomorrow transport pan faithful to the cornfields of Illinois where one of best steelbands in America will perform.

The Northern Illinois University (NIU) Steelband directed by Liam Teague and Cliff Alexis will give its Spring 2013 concert and feature special guest Robbie Greenidge.

The NIU steelband programme was formed 40 years ago and has evolved into a powerhouse under the leadership of Teague and Alexis. The spring concert is the band's annual showcase and offers a full and varied programme featuring performances from the All University Band and the "by audition only" NIU steelband of the best players.

The All University Band is run by four graduate students pursuing a two-year master's degree in pan performance. These students are some of the hottest young pannists around and hail from several different countries.

The concert will be the last for two of these graduate students as Barry Mannette and Khlon De Las, both from T&T, are graduating later in the spring. Mannette is the



The Northern Illinois University Steelband which performed in the 2012 Spring concert.

son of pan legend Birdie Mannette and the nephew of pan legend Ellie Mannette. Barry grew up in Invaders panyard and has played with many of the best steelbands in T&T. He has arranged for Starlift and Starlift Jr and this summer will be arranging for St Vincent panorama. De Las earned an undergraduate degree from the

University of the West Indies in St Augustine, and was a member of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra from 2007-2012.

Other NIU pan graduates include Josanne Francis, from Diego Martin, Trinidad. The only non-Trini of the group is Khan Cordice from Antigua. Cordice is considered by many a pan prodigy and

has been a winning arranger with Hell's Gate Steelband of Antigua. For the spring concert, each of the four has arranged one piece for the All-University steelband. The tunes vary in style and scope, ranging from Alicia Keys to a selection from the musical Les Misérables to an old Latin selection to, of all things, video game themes.

Every concert, the NIU steelband features a guest soloist to join the band. This spring, Greenidge, who has previously been a guest at NIU in 1991 and 1993, will feature him playing jazz numbers and Boogie Sharpe's Take a Break Today.

In addition to guest soloists, the concert features professor of Conducting Dr Ronnie Wooten conducting sections of Felix Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony arranged by band member Yuko Asada and Professor Mike Mixtacki, a Latin jazz specialist, who will join the NIU steelband on an arrangement of Mongo Santamaria's classic Afro-Blue.

Despite being 1800 miles from the Queen's Park Savannah, the NIU Steel-

band will play an arrangement by Teague of past Panorama tunes "Vibes," by the Mark Loquan and Ken "Professor" Philmore, Cliff Alexis' "More than an Oil Drum," and Superblue's 2013 Soca Monarch and Road March hit "Fantastic Friday" arranged by Barry Mannette.

If this concert isn't enough, Liam Teague will be performing a unique faculty recital featuring a number of new commissions on April 25. This recital and tomorrow's concert, which starts at 5 pm T&T time, will be Web cast free of charge through the NIU school of music Web site. The NIU Web casts have become popular with serious pan fans around the world. Head of recording services Dan Nichols said: "Our Web cast have been seen in over 150 countries on six continents and our YouTube channel (youtube.com/niusomofficial) in as nearly 1,000 videos and almost one million video views."

Go to www.niuedu/music and click on the screen for Web casts.

Other aspects must be addressed

■ From Page A15

Recent incidents in the Lower House have indicated that there is a serious threat to freedom of speech in Parliament with the Speaker, who is a member of the ruling Party allegedly displaying bias against members of the Opposition. On the other hand members must not be allowed to use the out-dated cover of 'Parliamentary protection' to defame innocent citizens and get away with it.

There are many other provisions that should be contained in a new set of Standing Orders; I shall go into these later.

Second Article

I concur with the philosophical position taken by the new commissioners that "the Constitution constitutes a social contract between the Government and the people". That being so, it has been suggested that the new Constitution should provide that the manifesto of the party in power become an enforceable contract between the Government and the people; but with the election of President by universal franchise who becomes both the Head of State and the Head of Government this may no longer be relevant.

This may be a good point at

which to comment on the suggestion I have heard that there should be a fixed date for elections. I do not believe that this is possible under a British Westminster-type system of Cabinet Government. Under this kind of Cabinet system Governments can fall before the end of its official 'five year' term of office and in such circumstances an election must be held if there is no one in the Parliament capable of forming a Government. But all this would become irrelevant if there were an elected President for a specified term. Fixed date for elections are generally applicable only in truly presidential systems. Of course, the President may be impeached by the legislature during his term of office, but then the Vice-President takes over or the rest of the term.

I have dealt only with the basic structure of Parliament and Government—a basic frame-work. There are many other aspects of the constitution which must be addressed.

The Right of Recall

There has been a call for introduction in the Constitution for the right of recall of Parliamentarians. This call is based on the complaint that some Parliamentarians do not perform but continue to hold their seats. This

call only makes sense if the members of Parliament were also the people running the country. But under the system such as I propose the Executive is not part of the Parliament. They make laws and are the protectors of the people against the potential for governmental abuses against the people.

Independent commissions

One of the biggest problems the framers of the new Constitution shall have is how, in a small society such as ours, do you find truly "independent" people to fill critical positions on such organisations as the Integrity Commission, the Elections and Boundaries Commission, the Public Service Commission, etc? Having regard to the class nature of our society and our historical antecedents of colonialism, slavery and indenture that have shaped our culture that may very well be an impossible task.

The way to ensure that there is no discrimination in the performance of the functions of such critical organisations may well lie in not looking for "independent" persons but rather in balancing the composition of such organisations with representation from the various interest groups in the society.

PTSC AT APTA WORKSHOP IN LOS ANGELES



Deputy General Manager Marketing and Communications Carl Ramdeo with Jack Gonzales Marketing Manager American Public Transportation Association at the opening session of the APTA Marketing and Communications workshop in Los Angeles 2013.