

UWI TAKES A LOOK AT BUDDING INDUSTRY

AT the present time no organisation in Trinidad and Tobago is geared to explore and develop the commercial potential of the steelband.

This disclosure was made in a paper entitled "The Role of the Research Programme of the Faculty of Engineering, (U.W.I.) in the development of a Steelband Industry", presented at the Chaguaramas Convention yesterday.

The paper pointed out that although Trinidad and Tobago has pioneered the development of steelband music, the music is now highly appreciated by a rapidly growing overseas audience.

"There is increasing evidence to suggest there is large demand for the music in other countries which indicates the great potential for commercial development of the steelband movement through band tours, record sales and instrument sales."

"But", the paper went on, "although the commercial potential of such development

seems extremely promising, at this moment no organisation in Trinidad and Tobago is geared to explore and develop this commercial potential."

The paper pointed out that the processes used by the pan tuners are time consuming, and are not necessarily consistently uniform and an entirely new criteria must be set if the instruments are to meet the demands of the market.

The paper suggested the introduction of certain mechanical and electronic aids which could help tuners to improve their methods and productivity, as well as changes in the manufacture of pans and the introduction of scientific aids.

It was recommended that the Faculty of En-

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gineering should expose its findings and the various techniques utilised in obtaining these findings to all members of the pan movement.

It was also recommended that a study of the feasibility of establishing an industry based on the manufacture of instruments should be undertaken.

There should also be a central workshop with basic mechanical equipment

Let pan play integral part in education

THE Steelband should play an integral part in the education system of the country.

This would enhance the image of the panman as an artist of undoubted merit.

There must be the eradication of recurrent taboos and prejudices which militate against the social acceptance of pan, and provisions must be made for opportunities for children to appreciate the indigenous art form of steelband.

These suggestions were made in a paper "The Steelband In Education" presented at the National convention yesterday.



The paper went on to say: "As far as possible, efforts should be made to ensure healthy exposure to, and an appreciation of pan, its history, culture, and heroes, by the upper section of the primary schools, and all those in both junior and Senior Secondary Schools."

It was suggested that students in primary schools should follow a scheme whereby emphasis would fall on learning to beat and play pan by ear and on complementary work in the appreciation of pan by means

of records, documentaries, poems, skits, etc.,

Pan tuning as a course in theory and practice was recommended for the Senior Secondary stage.

It was suggested that pan-tuning should not be carried out in the schools themselves but undertaken in a pantechology centre.

And for practice sessions that use be made of community centres or other available venues. Also that the mass media be used to clear up misgivings about the social, moral, and educational implications of integrating pan into the education system of the country."

It also recommended that the steelband be used as an instrument of therapeutic value in the schools for the handicapped,