

NEWS

First pan MAL 10410 exam in '95

By **SUZANNE SHEPPARD**

FOR THE first time in the history of the steelband movement, a pan examination, similiar to those done for students of the piano, organ and other conventional instruments, will be held.

The first exams are scheduled for April 1995. It is the result of more than a year of research and preparation by staffers from the Creative Arts Centre at the University of the West Indies with help from Pan Trinbago.

The syllabus was prepared by a committee comprising Merle Albino-De Coteau, Melville Bryan, Harold Headley, Anne Osbourne, Satanand Sharma and Selwyn Tarradath. Consultants for the project were Rawle Gibbons, June Joseph, Anthony Prospect and Mervyn Williams.

There is a culture of graded music examinations in this country and both the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and Trinity College of London have been coming every year for the past 60 years to conduct practical exams.

However, neither of these organisations has plans to initiate similiar exams on pan.

Although the idea of pan examinations is not new, there is no documen-

tation on previous efforts. Therefore, the committee preparing for this inaugural examination had to start from scratch.

The principal aims of the exam are to encourage pannists to become musically literate and to widen the scope of instruction in pan playing to include music reading in addition to rote learning.

To this end, performance of the three set pieces is only worth a total of 60 percent of the marks and a pass mark is 65 percent. Candidates will also have to prepare scales and arpeggios, be able to read at sight, answer questions on the set pieces they have played and perform other musicianship and aural tests.

Computer notation of the set pieces was done by Satanand Sharma and the cost of the music booklets has been kept low.

The exams represent the first phase of the project and are available for tenors, double tenors and double seconds from Grades 1 to 3. Grade 4 and 5 will be added in 1996.

The syllabus will be completely revised for the 1998 exams at which time Grade 8 will be added with the possibility of pieces for cellos and quadrophonics included.

The closing date for registration for the exam is March 3, 1995.