



photOpinion

IF you are one of the many hundreds of people who wait for taxis at the corner of Independence Square and George Street or who alight from taxis in that area, then you had better watch it. An old rotten light pole has been standing there for years. The authorities finally decided to do something about it. And guess what? They tied up the pole with some rope. The question is how long would the rope withstand the pressure before giving way. But again this is Trinidad and who cares about anything.

(Picture by TONY FORTE).

Test piece for panorama?

THE EDITOR: Judging steelband music especially at the Panorama festival is by no means as easy as it may first seem. A major problem is created by the absence of a set test piece to be played by all bands, consequently judges are compelled to pass judgment on a variety of

tunes varying considerably in style and arrangement.

The several arrangements themselves are good or bad in concert with the degree of musical competence or otherwise of the arrangers of musical directors attached to the several bands. The problem may be greatly minimised through early submission of road march material for familiarisation and scrutiny of judges, thus providing an opportunity for a more accurate assessment of the efforts of arrangers, provided of course, that the judges themselves are sufficiently qualified in these aspects of the musical art which are pertinent to the task at hand.

For example a judge should be knowledgeable in harmony and the art of orchestration and to be in a position to relate this knowledge to the steelband. A working knowledge of the instruments of which the orchestra is comprised is an indispensable pre-requisite.

This is not to say that judges must be concerned solely with techniques or harmony etc. For no single aspect should be the basis of a decision since, finally, it is the entire performance which needs to be judged but as the general performance constitutes a number of vital details it would be plain stupid to overlook them especially when the contest is keen.

Judges should never be swayed by the emotionalism displayed by large sections of the crowd who cheer wildly in support of a particular band or jeer at another. It must be remembered that the majority of people do not know enough about music. At any rate the primary function of any judge should be to take the type of decision which points to improved standards. In this regard the criteria used generally extend beyond the comprehension of the average person or even the average musician.

The reaction of crowds to the different performances could be very misleading and dangerous. For very often crowds respond more favourably to the more familiar tunes made popular by the radio.

GERRY JEMMOTT,
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numerology

what this day means to you

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS TO-DAY
February 25.

You must be willing and get ready to fit into the new picture of your life which will be presented in the coming weeks. There are aims afoot and no doubt can see where these changes apply into your present hopes and plans; thoughts and feelings must not be concealed during these days for you may be unfortunately misunderstood.

Your inspirational ways steer you into influential circles and you must gear yourself for important meetings. The younger, by spending so much time alone, could solve this mystery by coming out of the shell very occasionally yet enjoying simplicity and quietude. Strict discretion must be exercised in a family matter; your opinion is relied upon and should be careful when collecting the facts. You will be quite fortunate when indulging in games but you are very conservative.

In the coming months, you will be drawn out of the solitary and selective roads, extending your hidden capacity of being a mixer. Matters in home circles undergo pleasant readjustments and there will be the need for examinations or getting together to achieve objectives.

YOUR BEST DAYS OF ANY WEEK
Tuesdays and Fridays.

YOUR BEST DATES OF ANY MONTH
6, 9, 15, 21, 24, 27.

YOUR BEST MONTHS
March, May, July, August, September.

YOUR LUCKY NUMBERS
one, six and nine.

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