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Carr calls for UWI research to produce better pan music

FOLKLORIST Andrew Carr has called for the appointment of steelbandmen as tutors to train students at all schools throughout the country. He would also like to see a research project instituted at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of the West Indies with a view to producing a better and more durable metal steelband instruments.

Mr. Carr made these points in a lecture entitled "The Cultural Asset of the Steelband to Trinidad and Tobago" yesterday at the two-day steelband seminar, Community Education Workshop, St. Ann's.

He observed that now the steelband is the same jealous mistress today as she was in the bad old days, where "do we go from here?"

Mr. Carr suggested the introduction of written music for pans, of sufficient high quality

to satisfy the standard of the musicianship of the players.

He thinks it would be a good idea to invite a music composer of world class to come and live here for a few months to write "symphony for steel", specially timed for a steelband performance at an independence anniversary celebration.

Tracing the history of the steelband movement in the days of gang rivalry and delinquency, Mr. Carr said it might be appropriate to improve the living conditions of the underprivileged stratum in the society which had given birth to this unique form of musical expression.

He noted that with the latter day advent of sponsorship of steelbands by commercial institutions, discipline had been elevated into an even more important ingredient to success, which must reflect to the gen-

eral good of the society.

Police Superintendent Anthony Prospect in his lecture, "The Standardisation of Steelband Instruments", said it was impossible to standardise design in pan instruments at the present time.

He pointed out that quite a lot of work was yet to be done in the field of experimentation before this could become a reality.

But he urged the standardisation of "pitch" in steelbands . . . that is all instruments should be in concert pitch and the band should be tuned in "A" above Middle "G" 440 vibrations, a universally accepted pitch.