



PAMELLA LAWRENCE, public relations officer, Republic Bank, gets a cheer from pannists of the Morvant/Laventille Secondary School, after trying her hand at a tenor pan when she visited the school to congratulate the students on winning the Republic Bank School Pan Award. The school gets \$10,000 from Republic Bank as a result of winning the Junior Panorama competition.

School pan champs thank Republic Bank for \$10,000

THE MOOD at Morvant/Laventille Secondary School is still buoyant three weeks after the school won the Republic Bank "School-Pan" Award in the Junior Panorama competition.

The school's pannists, already making firm plans to put the \$10,000 award to proper use, did an impromptu "thank-you" rendition of their winning tune, Baron's "Somebody" for the sponsors of the award, Republic Bank, when public relations officer, Pamela Lawrence, paid a congratulatory visit on Wednesday.

Roland Gordon, music teacher and arranger, said both teaching staff and students were overjoyed at Republic's gesture, adding that the money would go towards acquiring additional pans and

upgrading music facilities.

The Republic Bank "School-Pan" Award, given to the first place winners of the Junior Panorama, is aimed at developing an important aspect of the country's culture among the young people.

Own Equipment

The money is to enable schools to purchase their own equipment instead of borrowing from senior steelbands.

Morvant/Laventille played at the competition with 82 pannists, with the band made up primarily of its own pans, augmented with some from Witco Desperadoes.

"This will give us an opportunity to complete our steelband. In addition, we will use the money to upgrade our facilities and develop the musical skills of the students to integrate pan more into the school curriculum," said Mr. Gordon.

Since almost every school depended on established bands to make up their full complement of pans for the competition, the award is very timely as the senior bands themselves have to prepare for the National Panorama at the same time.

Mr. Gordon also threw out a warning to other schools with their eyes of the award in 1990. "We are coming stronger than before. We intend to keep this title," he said, with a degree of confidence.