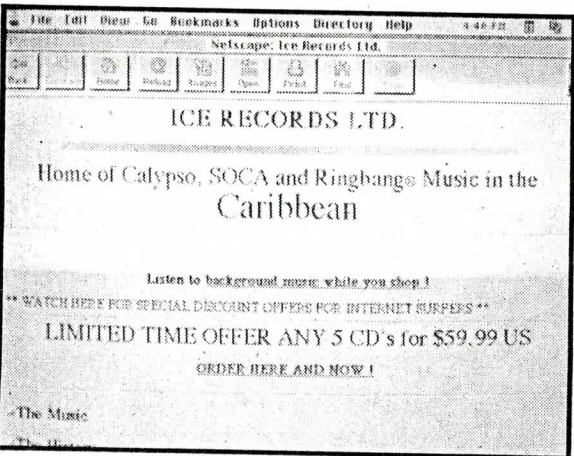
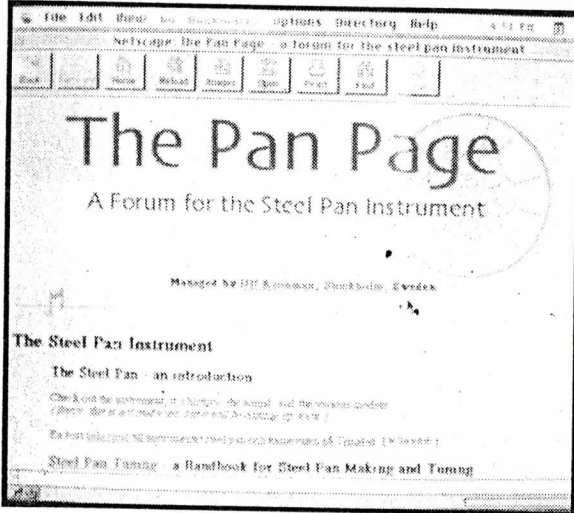


KAISO & PAN ON INTERNET

...but cybersurfers don't know calypso belongs to T&T



OF COURSE we know better. But on the Internet, the world is learning that Barbados is the home of calypso and Sweden is the place to go for expertise on steelband.

Trinidad and Tobago's tardiness in journeying into cyberspace has meant that others who have gone before have been able to identify themselves with our culture.

Cybersurfers searching for information about calypso on the Internet (a network linking computers across the globe) are directed to Ice Records, Eddy Grant's Barbados-based company. The message they see is "Ice Records, Home of Calypso, Soca, and Ringbang Music in the Caribbean." They get a list of CDs that can be purchased, among them Black Stalin's "Message To Sundar" and Superblue's "Flag Party."

Those interested in the steelband are directed to Sweden. There they find The Pan Page, a repository of information set up by Ulf Kronman, the Swedish physicist, whose post-graduate studies in acoustics brought him to here to study and write about pan. The Pan Page has an online version of Kronman's book in which he does credit Trinidad with inventing the instrument.

The general information provided about pan in Trinidad, however, is sketchy, out of date, and inaccurate. Only three tuners are listed for the country and premier tuners such as Bertie Marshall, Leo Coker, and Bertram Kellman are left out; what is now Trinidad Instruments Ltd is still referred to as Metal Industries Company Ltd; and Pan Trinbago's address

is given as 47 (instead of 75) Edward Street.

Kronman has put out an appeal on his pages for Trinidad to provide him with up-to-date information via e-mail.

"A claim like that is preposterous," director of culture in the Ministry of Culture Dr Hollis "Chalkdust" Liverpool said of Eddy Grant's statement. "What happens is that these fellows are trying to grab the international spotlight. They are trying to rush the information they can get outside. They don't have the burning love for Trinidad to promote it when it comes to these things."

Kronman's pan page came as a surprise to Pan Trinbago president Owen Serrette, who admitted knowing very little about the Internet, and who inquired as to who has the authority to put information out into cyberspace.

"That sort of information should come from Trinidad, from us," Serrette said after perusing The Pan Page on a computer at the Express. "If anybody is saying anything about pan, it should have been Trinidad. We need to put the true facts on the Internet."

About a year ago, a Pan Trinbago offi-

cer who is based abroad offered to put information on steelband on the Internet, Serrette said. The organisation "mentioned" this to Information Minister Gordon Draper, but the idea was not pursued.

"Some people feel that Pan Trinbago should be responsible for doing something like that," Serrette said, arguing, however, that such a responsibility is impossible for it to undertake since the organisation is a voluntary one with limited resources. "Since pan is a national instrument, we feel it is a national and a government responsibility. The Government should be more on the ball as far as getting information like this out."

Trinidad's appreciation of answers to Serrette's question as to who can and his suggestion as to who should put information on the Internet will determine what our presence in cyberspace will be.

"Anyone can say anything on the Net," explained Simon Fraser, information technology specialist with the Tourism and Industrial Development Company (TIDCO). Cyberspace has been described as both a truly democratic and an anarchic world. Anyone with the facilities or the cash to pay for the facilities, can set up a page to put out any information — or misinformation — they want on any topic.



OWEN SERRETTE

Manhunt on for 4

A POLICE manhunt is on for four men who may have been injured by police bullets during a shootout Friday night following a robbery incident in South Trinidad.

According to a police report, around 9 p.m. four men stole a Datsun Sunny motorcar from a family at Mon Repos, San Fernando, then journeyed to Papourie Road.

There, they held up a grocery proprietor around 10 p.m. and robbed him of \$1,000.

The four men, the report said, went to Penal, but on reaching Lal Beharry Trace,

Barrackpore, members of the Crime Suppression Unit pursuing them in a marked police Jeep, called on them to stop.

Instead, the officers were greeted with gun fire. The officers shot back and within seconds the car came to a stop at a canefield. The four men, according to the report, escaped in the canefield from where shots were again fired.

On searching the canefield yesterday, Police saw a trail of blood. The car was recovered.

A police bulletin has been issued to all hospitals to be on the lookout for the men who seek medical treatment.

F2116
 Round one to Tobago:
 Govt makes amends
 Ref: 187/9/95 p.3