

Trini spreads pan gospel Down Under

By WILLIAM DOYLE-MARSHALL

COURTNEY LEIBA, a former percussionist and public relations officer with Esso Tripoli Steelband, was in Trinidad over the Carnival season to acquire new instruments for his Australia-based band, Calypso Pantastic.

Leiba started it in 1977 shortly after leaving Trinidad following an unsuccessful political bid as a member of Tapia House for a seat in Parliament.

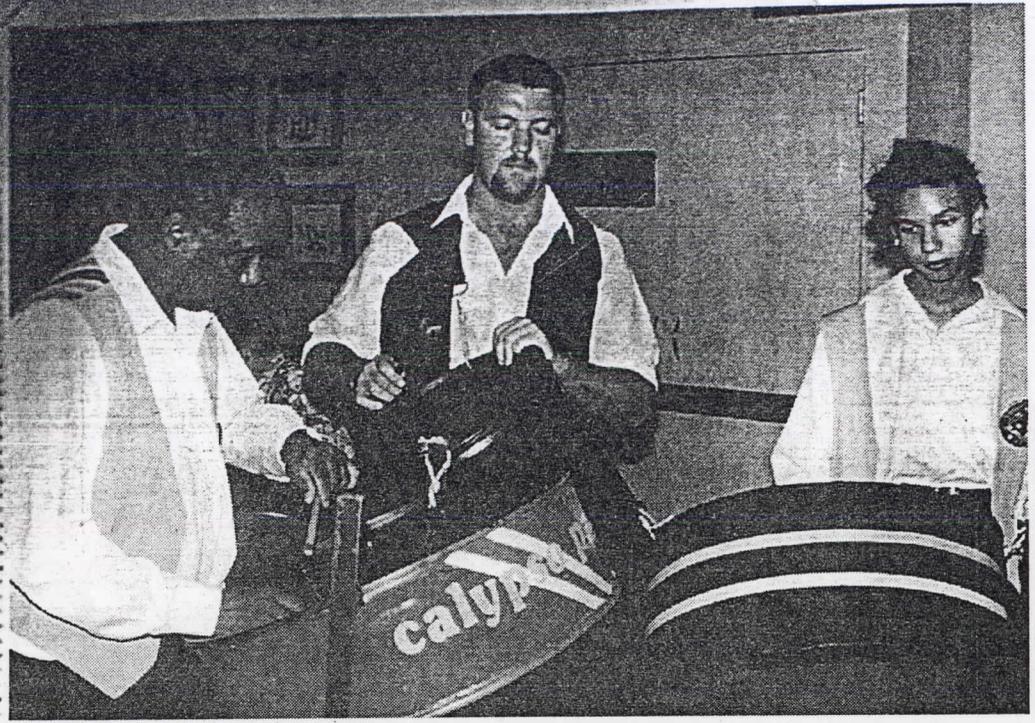
The former law clerk turned percussionist, who toured the United States of America with the late American pianist Liberace, as a member of Tripoli, has since turned his talents to playing steelband instruments.

When Leiba started his steelband career, he paid \$15 for his instrument — a scratcher — which he used on stage to capture the hearts of music lovers as he combined fancy dance steps and unusual movements with the instruments.

Today he makes Australia his home where

he heads Calypso Pantastic playing for major hotel chains and other organisations around Tasmania Island and Canberra. His 20-year-old daughter, Nadine, plays double second as a part of his outfit, which includes Australian Richard Booth, a multi-talented musician.

Shortly after his return to Australia, Leiba will be launching a promotion for the Southern Cross, one of the biggest Catholic clubs in that country. In addition, he will taking up an assignment with Trinity Christian School to teach the art of playing steelpan instruments to students.



LEIBAS IN ACTION: Courtney Leiba (left), Richard Booth and daughter Nadine Leiba entertain patrons at an Australian performance.



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month

brate the joyous festival of Naw-Ruz (the Baha'i New Year). The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Trinidad and Tobago would like to extend greetings to all Baha'is and wish them a very happy time at Ayyami-Ha and during the Fast.

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The EMA reflects this vision in its logo, which depicts a simple leaf bearing a superimposed thumbprint. The green living leaf, symbolic of nature and the environment, lies at the mercy of the human being whose mark — a distinctive thumbprint — must be such that it harmonizes and becomes one with the environment, conserving rather than destroying the inheritance of future generations held in trust by us all.

