

Cut this out...Pan for all seasons

By TERRY JOSEPH

TIME WAS WHEN we forgot about the sound of pan immediately after the Shrove Tuesday; reviving the rhythm briefly on Discovery Day, then putting the confounded thing to rest again until the following Carnival season.

Then, even the Discovery Day

respite was no more.

But lo! Come through today's calendar with us to find that there are more days of pan events for the remainder 1996 than there were for any five year period between 1976 and 1986.

Between now and Christmas, only September manages to escape the sound of this musical instrument, although pan on the night of Independence Day

(August 31) might well spill over onto the morning of the following day, which is a Sunday.

Talk about Sundays. Starting on Sunday next, (April 28), Irwin Park in Siparia will host the competition for traditional bands, as part of the Siparia Fete.

Then, on May 4, there is the Point Fortin *Pan on the Move* Competition from 4 p.m. This is for conventional bands only.

On Thursday May 30 (Indian Arrival Day), there is the first annual *Pan Chutney Festival* for small ensembles. Last year, more than 20,000 people gathered at the Princess Royal Park in Arima for the inaugural event, which featured 16 bands.

Test pieces for the event were written by Jit Samaroo and the song "Lotay La" was the most popular song played as the tune of choice.

The *Bari-festa Steelband Competition* takes place on June 1 at the Barataria Savannah (Sixth Avenue). This competition is also for small ensembles.

Pan Ramajay moves back up to July after sliding all the way down to September last year, in order to be part of *Carifesta VI*. Instead of enhancing the gates for the pan event, rain drenched all comers.

This year, organisers are taking no chances and have already set the dates for the preliminary rounds as July 20 and 21. But that is not the end of pan in July. The annual *St Peter's Day Pan Jam* (for traditional bands) is scheduled to take place on Sunday July 7.

Pan Ramajay semi-finals will take

place on Saturday, July 27.

Saturday August 3 takes us out to Sangre Grande for *Pan in the Gran*, a major competition, open to both conventional and traditional steelbands. *Pan Ramajay* finals fall on the very next day (August 4).

From August 25 to 31 is the annual *Steelband Week*, then the rest in September.

From October 17 to 20 is the *Pan is Beautiful VIII Steelband Music Festival* Preliminaries.

The semi finals are on October 25 to 27.

Finals of the *Pan is Beautiful VIII Steelband Music Festival* take place on November 2.

Then, there is *Pan Jazz*, the non competitive expose of pan talent coupled with traditional jazz. The dates are not yet final, according to Alfred Aguiton, but the shows are likely to fall on the weekend after *Pan is Beautiful VIII*.

After that, there is the Christmas Spirit as evidenced in the *Pan Parang* activities, then we get into rehearsals for next year's *Panorama* tunes.

By the way, have you heard De Fosto?



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