

Pan icon under pressure



PAN BUZZ

Steelpan news

Pan icon Bertie Marshall is hospitalised at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital. Marshall, a diabetic, has been having problems controlling his blood sugar level, and has been in and out of hospital.

However, the pan scientist is in a cheerful mood despite this setback. The inventor of the Bert-fone and the double tenor, Marshall has also been credited with introducing canopies on pan and the amplification of the tenor pan called "Chinee Pan."

This outstanding arranger and tuner has been associated with the Highlanders Steel Orchestra and Desperadoes. He has also done work at Caribbean Research Institute as a steelband development officer with the Ministry of Community Development. Marshall was also a tutor in a pan-tuning programme at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).

Just last month he was the centre of attention on television and in newspapers, when the Housing Development Corporation threat-



Pan icon Bertie Marshall at work.

ened to evict him. Marshall told Pan Buzz it was an "embarrassing mix-up," as he pays his rental for the year at the beginning of the year.

In a flash, the then Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism, Winston "Gypsy" Peters, and Minister of Social Development Glen Ramadarsingh appeared on television with Marshall, making promises to assist him. His care-giver, Courtney Goodridge told Pan Buzz that not much has changed, despite the efforts of Patrick Vidale of

the Social Development Ministry. Courtney told Pan Buzz he has been knocking from pillar to post over a month to get a document from the Ministry of Community where Bertie was once employed from 1973- 1977.

Goodridge also told Pan Buzz that there is an outstanding payment from the UTT for Marshall for a period in 2009 and 2010. He said invoices have been submitted, and he hopes payment will be fast-tracked.