

SHOWTIME

By ANIL JODHAN

TRINI JUST LIKE YOU?

EVERY Carnival, it seems, trends (of all kinds) become evident. The trends last year were Donkey-Dancing and Soca-bogling. This year we can safely say the "animals" (cows, dogs and butterflies alike) have continued their fad... sadly.

But look out there's another trend, which is bigger and better in more ways than

the "animals" and is taking Carnival by storm - an invasion of foreign talent.

By now everybody, who's anybody, knows about the new German Soca sensation, Chako and his wife, Tina, being on the Kisskidee Kaiso Karavan, (see page 15 for more on Chako).

Still on the Soca tip, there's a Swedish Soca band called Soca Rebels, which re-



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cently launched a new record here in TnT. Led by vocalist/guitarist/pannist Lars Hansson, Soca Rebels is the only Soca band in Sweden and were first heard of when they made a Swede version of (Crazy's) "Nani Wine". Then in 1992, the band hooked up with their inspiration, Edwin "Crazy" Ayoung, on a tour of Sweden.

In the world of "brass", probably the most important set of background instruments in Soca, the invasion has taken on another trendy perspective - females.

Leading the pack is Kelly Bolduc, a 25-year-old, trumpet player extraordinaire from Boston, who is playing with Machel Montano and his band Xtatic for the season. Out of the season Kelly leads her very own Reggae/Soca/Dancehall band, Hot Like Fire.

Then there are the three lovely lasses going by the sobriquet of Amazon Brass, hail-

ing from Russia, Italy and Germany. Connected with the KC International Band (led by Ken Charles), these gals are all professional horn-players and will be lending their collective talents to Massive Chandelier, Atlantic, Sound Rev and Traffik.

Steelpan (another local invention that is shaking the foundations of the musical world), has drawn some "invaders" of its own. Firstly, Werner Egger, a 17-year-old from Switzerland is playing tenor for Panberi. In his native Switzerland, Egger works full-time as a pan tuner at the PanArt factory, which produces high quality pans for European pansides.

The defending Panorama Champs, Amoco Renegades, have also acquired the talents of a couple of foreigners. Firstly, there is South African, Steve Lawrie, who is the arranger of the lone steelband in his homeland and has been involved in pan for the last ten years.

Secondly, there is the Swiss national, Claudio Pini, who's making his third trip to our sun-blessed isles a little more special by playing for Renegades.

This "invasion" just shows how far our culture has reached and should make us wake



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up to the fact that we should appreciate it as much (if not more than) the outside world. Even though Calypso and Steelpan is "we ting", it's very flattering to know that the world wants to be "Trini just like we".