

Pan is number one this weekend

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ACCORDING to the title of Bally's 1999 pan calypso, "Pan is Number One" this weekend, with the annual steelband Panorama competition entering its third straight day of competition this afternoon. Although the popular calypsonian failed to get the judges' nod into the February 5 Pan Kaiso Final, the words of his song are profound and true of steelband, particularly at this time of the year.

By normal rules of progression, defending national Panorama champion Nutones should be the odds-on favourite to retain today's East Zone title. But, fate has been cruel to the Arima steelband, with the band having to endure a year of trials and tribulations, including a nightmare of tour to the France World Cup last summer. So, the horses to watch for today's eastern trifecta are Exodus, InnCogen Pamperi and Solo Pan

Knights.

Tomorrow is another kettle of fish, with Witco Desperadoes biting at the bit to tie Amoco Renegades record-breaking nine national title haul, before the turn of the new millennium. The Laventille band has welcomed prodigal arranger Clive Bradley, to repeat the magic he performed last year for Nutones, with Oba Synette's "In My House".

Renegades, opting to return to its tried and tested formula of Kitchener selections, is bringing a zippy Jit Samaroo arrangement of "Toco Band" to the Savannah. The premier Charlotte Street band is as hungry as Des-

peradoes is, to notch up another national win, and take its tally to an insurmountable ten.

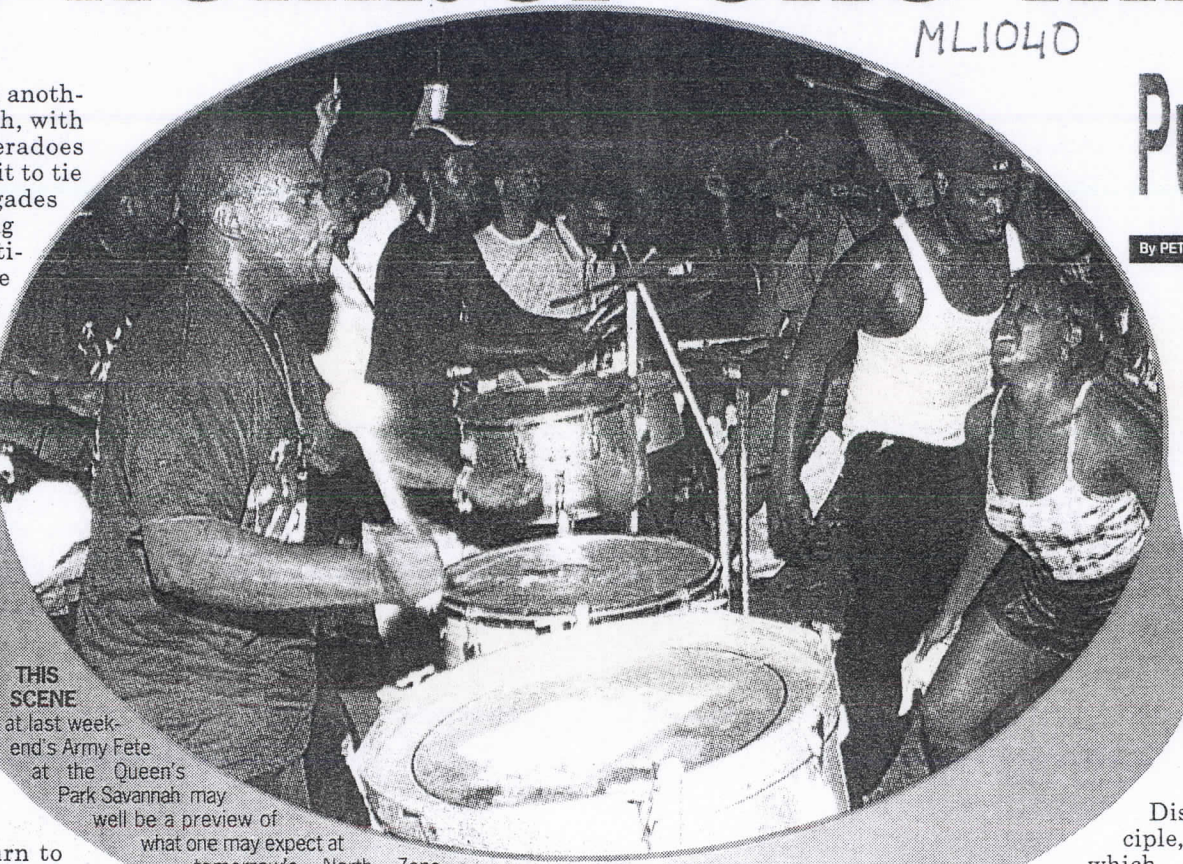
But, things will not be so easy in the north

for Despers and Renegades, as Len "Boogsie" Sharpe has plans of his own, with

Phase II Pan Groove playing so "Sweet and Sexy". Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars is coming with a tune, by

THIS SCENE

at last weekend's Army Fete at the Queen's Park Savannah may well be a preview of what one may expect at tomorrow's North Zone Panorama Final, and national preliminary.



Pulse

By PETER RAY BLOOD



a national Panorama title in this millennium, BWIA Invaders is serious about entering the next as a reigning champion.

Silver Stars is back in the Panorama, with Junior Pouchet at its helm, and sounding sweet like long time as well.

There is no precedent to this Panorama, as there was no competition in 1899, the only tip one can follow is that at the first ever competition in 1963, a band from the west emerged national champion. But, the last time a west band won was in 1988, with a victory for Phase II. Another caprice gamblers might consider is that only North Zone bands have won the national title at the end of decades. With no competition in

Disciple, which

most people at the big yard will be hearing for the first time, while Starlift, with new arranger Anise "Haffers" Hadeed, has a new sound and lease on life. Having never won

1979, Starlift won the '69 competition, and Renegades won in '89.

mac ward out of danger

FAMILY and friends of MacDonald Ward breathed a sigh of relief when he was recently discharged from hospital. The 1970 King of Carnival was hospitalised since New Years Day because of a heart ailment.

Also a major investor/advisor in Peter Minshall's Carnival presentations through the years, and owner of The Mas Camp Pub, Mac, as he fondly called, has dropped some weight and is said to be taking things a little easier this Carnival. Friends are saying that he will be back, though for shorter periods, at the Mas Camp outlet for Minshall's presentation of *The Lost Tribes*.

making mas in the mad house

IT is one of the more enjoyable Carnival events, and it takes place this evening, at 1 pm. The Ole Mas and calypso competition at St Ann's Hospital will be held on the hospital grounds, and is expected to be

as entertaining as in previous years. Live entertainment will be by World Wide Steelband and the TT Police Band. DJ Superfly will also be in the house.

a question for the professor

WHAT do successful party promoters do when they retire? Why, throw more parties of course.

That's exactly what Max Richards and his family did when the professor retired from his administrative stint at UWI, and making UWI Fete the most successful all-inclusive fete in the Caribbean. The Richards family is hosting their second annual all-inclusive party on February 7, at the spacious, landscaped Carec Grounds, Federation Park,

For just \$250 a pop, guests can dance the day away, from 11 am, to the sounds of Qwestion, Traffik, Point Fortin Engine Room, St James Tassa Drummers, Hurricane George and Syndicate Inc; and, sample a wide variety of cuisine, as well as items from the unlimited "exotic cocktail bars".

ED. NOTE: You can e-mail Pulse at bloodline@ttol.co.tt