

ML 1040

PHOTO: TREVOR HACKETT



THE BEAT: Members of NLCB Fonclaire Steel Orchestra during their performance of De Fosto's "Pan Lamentation", arranged Darren Sheppard, on Sunday at Pan Trinbago's South/Central Region Zonal championship at Skinner Park, San Fernando.

# Fonclaire new South/Central champ

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South Bureau

NLCB Fonclaire Steel Orchestra is the 2007 Pan Trinbago South/Central Region Zonal champion.

The band, of Dottin Street, San Fernando, emerged ahead of 19 bands in the Conventional Bands category.

Playing before a modest crowd at Skinner Park, San Fernando, on Sunday, Fonclaire beat its nearest rival, Pan Elders Steel Orchestra, by eight and a half points.

Both bands played De Fosto's "Pan Lamentation" arranged by Darren Sheppard and Richard "Alvin" Gittens respectively.

Placing third was the TCL Group Skiffle Bunch with "Sharing Licks" composed by Len "Boogie" Sharpe, sung by Crazy and arranged by Ken 'Professor' Philmore.

The show ran smoothly and the competition was tight despite the 90-minute late start and the presence of workmen completing the exit ramp on the western side of the stage while the competition was in progress.

Each conventional band based within San Fernando was given \$20,000 while those on the outskirts are to receive \$30,000. Each Single Pan Band was presented with \$10,000.

The event, organised

after south bands failed to make it past the semi-final round of the National Panorama competition, was used as a dry run for the finals to be held at the same venue on Carnival Saturday night.

Declaring the event open at around 7.30p.m. was Eddie Hart, Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs who pleaded with the patrons to exercise control in the consumption of alcohol for the Carnival season.

The eight Single Pan bands and four of the Conventional bands had no choice but to move their pans on and off the stage using the ramp on the east-

ern side until the exit ramp was completed at around 11.30 p.m. This glitch however did not negatively affect the flow of the bands.

Fyzabad Fourth Dimension, winners of the Single Pan Bands category emerged ahead of Self Help Marines by 13 points playing "Tiney Winey" as performed by Byron Lee and The Dragonaires and arranged by Chester George. Self Help Marines relied on another classic, Explainer's "Lorraine" which was arranged by Elvin Stafford.

New Age Trendsetters came in third with Sparrow's "Jane" as arranged by Glenford Sobers Sr.