

EXPRESS

Features Section

By PETER BLOOD

PHASE II PAN GROOVE and **American Stores Exodus** retained their respective titles in the North and East Zonal Panorama finals at the Queen's Park Savannah last Friday night.

However, Phase II had to share the top prize as Amoco Renegades were awarded same points as the popular Woodbrook steelband and named joint champions. Friday's exercise began at 8 o'clock, reaching its climax at 2.58 a.m. on Saturday. Eight bands faced the judges in each zone.

Phase II, playing *This Feelin' Nice*, composed and arranged by the band's leader Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, played an arrangement which was at all times congruous with the melody. Receiving a bouncy count for the opening of the piece, the band maintained a steady rhythm, with all sections being easily discernible. The arrangement was also enhanced by the infectious use of a Shango rhythm insertion.

Phase II and Exodus do it again

The audience, having complied with Renegades' request to stand and observe a minute's silence for the late Bertram Millette, was soon drawn to its feet by the band's scintillating performance of Kitchen-er's *Pan in 'A' Minor*, arranged by Jit Samaroo. Like Phase II, the band's finely tuned instruments were at all times audible. Their's was one of the best prepared pieces heard for the night, deserving every point awarded the band. Third place in the North Zone Final went the way of WITCO Desperadoes, also playing *Pan in 'A' Minor*. Desperadoes' tune was jointly arranged by Clive Bradley, Beverly Griffith and Robert Greenidge. While this band maintained a

good harmony between the front, middle and low pans, there was the tendency to stray from the melody during the second half of the piece.

In retaining the East Zone Final title, Exodus played Ray Holman's *Pan Woman*, also arranged by the composer.

Playing the slowest ever in a final, the perfectly balanced Exodus was able to hold the listener's interest with an

exciting arrangement.

The crescendoes and change keys in the latter quarter of the piece were tastefully done and must have contributed to the band's success.

Speaking of balance, second-placed Solo Harmonites was also good in this area.

Displaying well pitched tone, with adequate depth, and with lovely counter melodies, arranger Earl Rodney worked wonders with Kitchen-er's *Pan in 'A' Minor*.

There was a tie for third place in the East Zonal between National Quarries Cordettes and Gerizm Angel Harps.

Once again the genius of Jit Samaroo came into focus as he also did the arrangements for these

two bands.

The arrangement given to Angel Harps for Natsha Wilson's *One Day* brought out the sweetness of the band's quadrophonic pans, as well as stayed in safe proximity to the melody.

With some exquisitely tuned second and middle

pans, done by Lincoln Noel, the pannists of Cordettes executed a beautiful interpretation of De Alberto's *Rambo*.

The band's sound was clean and clear, and it's a pity that, being out of the national semi-final, this was the last we would hear from Cordettes for Panorama '87.

The following is the full results of Friday's finals:

EAST ZONE:

1. AMERICAN STORES EXODUS (279)
2. Solo Harmonites (277)
3. Gerizm Angel Harps/National Quarries Cordette (273)
5. Nutones (272)
6. Pamperi (271)
7. Simple Song (265)
8. Birdsong (254).

NORTH ZONE:

1. PHASE II PAN GROOVE/AMOCO RENEGADES (285)
3. WITCO Desperadoes (280)
4. Catelli Trinidad All Stars (273)
5. Pandemonium (271)
6. Merrytones (269)
7. Trintoc Invaders (266)
8. Valley Harps (256).