

The best Panorama finals in years

Dalton James

THE disciples of 19 steelbands in Friday night's semi-finals seemed to think that it was easy for their respective bands to make the eight for tonight's show. But I can't understand how they could think so, since gave or take a band, the finalists virtually played themselves in a Panorama 72.

Shell Invaders, minus their usual colourful regalia, opened the fast-paced show (creative an organisation) with a salute to Kitchener's Mas' in Germany.

Remember the old men of old? Moderate tempo with mucho steel! Not this year. Shell went with an accelerated rhythm, and although their bases were

overloaded, it was nice to feel a dormant soloist suddenly become active.

But Marjorie Padmore, Jaclyn Pierre, Isabella Thomas, Horace Edwards, and Thornton Smith weren't moved by the "new" Invaders. They trusted Texaco Skychief, making 1 to 2 stars, suddenly. And yet I can't remember jotting down any notes on the Chief's rendition of My Commie.

Invaders must have been forgotten, though, when a vacuum rushed onto the vast stage and wasted 45 minutes because a few "early" bands were delayed. Or maybe because the Prime Minister hadn't arrived yet.

Anyhow, it was pan on the

staff, to parody Ray Holman.

Y De Lima Elvo Diamond's Mr. Carnival received the steel, but the only soloist seen there off from their chomped tenors, although the band played well. So did Calypso Medallions whose raised sabonwood sheds permitted the melody to permeate their small band sound level.

And then Carib Tokyo stormed on the audience with a paydair aura that was evident even in their dress, or non-dress.

We didn't mind, Tokyo came to beat pan, and who cares about a Follies Breque arrangement. Their crisp interpretation of My Commie was accentuated by well-tuned tenors and a strong foundry department

in their circular drum shock.

When the bases included, the tenors complimented them beautifully, even during a climb downhill to another level. I could have sworn Tokyo.

Also, I'd like to meet WASA Silvertones S in a time Same Place for a musical trust but not tonight at the savannah.

Of the three bands that shined on silver Silvertones, Amoro Renegades made up for mediocrity with a bright middle passage that surged upon us with a touch of africainpoul. Shell Sun Valley and Lever Brothers Gay Flamencoes oyster flattered to deceive. We were looking for right.

Without a doubt, TTEC Power Stars deserved to be among that group. Playing

Rainoramas a time that could electrify anyone with its melody alone, they gave us power pans to warm the waning night.

Not so National Lottery Third World Symphony! A satellite of Starlift, this band's Carnival 72 was out of this world of pan, out of the finals.

Mosco Tiles Ponceiro stayed in orbit, however; and if we are to judge by the reading on the Richter scale of applause, this South had's popularity was as tight as their arrangement of Steel and Brass and the skins.

What with a heavy base section and sweet pan music couched in the psychedelic canopy symbolic of other

ten bands, King Wellington, like the audience, must have been pleased with the polished product of his composition.

CIBC Starlift followed with Pan on the Run composed by the Mighty Ray Holman, their arranger. The tune ain't no Rainorama, yet it can bank on its musical merits.

But it was the tonal quality of the instruments and the exuberant efforts of the panmen to do justice with a relatively flat piece that qualified them to roll tonight with WITCO Desperados.

What a Rainorama their's was! They chorused their own "Yaaaahs." One detected a familiar Despers

Turn to Page 17



HERE ARE THE 8 FINALISTS



Best Panorama finals in years

FRO MPAGE 16

prelude, only this year it was more relevant to the tune.

Runs galore. Cellos and tenor bases smoking. And Clive Bradley knew what he was doing when he froze those tenors and double-tenors in an organ-like frenzy.

Playing Steel and Brass, Solo Harmonites beat some mean pan. They relied on

sheer brute force steel, coming back again this year with another volcanic arrangement. Earl Rodney is still a lord of arrangers.

Solo was a hard act to wash down, and Newtown Silver Stars exemplified this by the way they played, choking on their own stuff.

Then Catelli Trinidad All Stars romped onto the ramp with a solid, finely-honed quality arrangement of Rainorama.

"Is between dem an' Despers," a hoarse voice in

back of me rasped.

Another voice was heard betting \$500 on Macaroni to win outright.

It was simply plenty pan and plenty mas.' The stops, the runs, the change of keys all mirrored championship material.

Parliament Scherzando was last, though not least in music appreciation. But they trailed some wicked competition that could well be more intense tonight. Easily, it could be the best panorama finals in years.