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Pan crowd moved by Melodians

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THE BAND of the night at Friday's North/East Panorama semi-finals was Colgate Melodians. The Arima band, playing seventh in the crop of East bands that performed before those from North was the first band to send the crowd, into transports of delight with Scrunter's "Crapaud Revolution".

The crowd reaction was spontaneous approval of Melodians' expertise and the ability with which they captured the essence of "Crapaud Revolution".

Melodians was the only band to win that kind of acclaim. On the other hand, for defending champions Catelli All Stars, applause came as a matter of course. Even before All Stars' pans were wheeled onstage, the crowd was already screaming for them.

One could say that the pans were wheeled on a wave of sentiment, which was prompted by the DJ's nostalgic selection of All Stars 1980 winner, "Woman On The Bass".

Phase II gave a good performance playing their own composition "Pan in Ah Rage" by Boogie Sharpe. They played beautifully despite the attempts of an over-enthusiastic person to grapple with Phase II's flagwaver for the flag. Police took him away, but he came back fighting and had to be removed again.



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A TTT camera also fell down in front of the band, but none of this fazed the Woodbrook band.

It was a pity that Solo Harmonites had to play just after Melodians. Earl Rodney's arrangement of Squibby's "Distant Drums" was sophisticated but failed to maintain the tempo that Melodians had set.

And the audience had a ball. They booed Solo Harmonites, and Desperadoes who had a professional arrangement of Kitchener's "More Pan" done by Robert Greenidge, met with cheers and jeers.

Then there was the fat "Ethel", who, dressed in the tiniest of yellow shorts, held the flag for Nutones. She, too, was cheered and jeered according to the crowd's inclination.

And at the end of it all this is how the bands were placed.

EAST: Colgate Melodians, Solo Harmonites, Nutones, UWI Birdsong, Potential Symphony, Pamberi, Trinidad Scherzando, Cordettes.

NORTH: Catelli Trinidad All Stars, WITCO Desperadoes, Phase II Pan Groove, Pandemonium, AMOCO Renegades, Carib Tokyo, Trintoc Invaders, Mone's Jewel 22.

Up to press time the points for these placings were not available from Pan Trinbago.