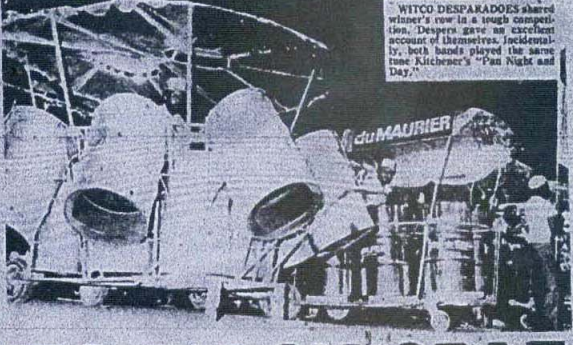




AMOCO RENEGADES on the stage Saturday night in the final of the 1985 Panorama competition. The Charlotte Street steel orchestra, which shared the coveted title with WITCO Desparados, played "Pan Night and Day."



WITCO DESPARADES shared winner's row in a tough competition. Despara gave an excellent account of themselves. Incidentally, both bands played the same time Kitchener's "Pan Night and Day."

RECESSION TAKES BACK SEAT

Renegades and Despers share Panorama honours

By FRANCIS JOSEPH

IT WAS bound to happen! After Thursday night's national Panorama semi-finals, when five points separated the first five bands, the final on Saturday night was heading for a climax.

And it happened. The five bands could not separate the first two bands (defending champion) AMOCO Renegades and former champions WITCO Desparados tied for first place with 262 points each.

And as happened in the semi-finals, the finale proved to be a very close affair, with three points separating the first five bands.

Three points separate top 5 bands

Laurentine band, after they lost their regular arranger, Clive Bradley, before the start of the 1985 season. Mainly responsible for their fine arrangement were Robbin Greenidge and Beverly Griffith.

The tie between Renegades and Desparados was the first in 13 years. The last was in 1972 between Solo Harmonies and the late Pan Jammers.

But two years ago have seen described as among the keenest in years.

In third place were Catelli Trinidad All Stars with 261 points. The Duke Street band played Cray's "Suck Me! Suck Me!" And what a performance they received from the large crowd at the Queen's Park Savannah!

Calypsonian Cray himself was there as bandleader for the former Port-of-Spain band. Carib Tuku, completed the 1984 by North bands.

Toku, whose arrangement was by Bradley, scored 260 points, and demonstrated their consistency from the preliminary right through to the final.

East zone champions, American Sires Exodus, who scored a surprise by topping the semi-finals, were relegated to fifth place on the last night with 259 points. Their time was Billy's "Me En Fighting."

Solo Harmonies also played "Me

Pan results at a glance

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 2. Catelli Trinidad All Stars, 261
 3. Carib Tuku, 260
 4. American Sires Exodus, 259
 5. No Tones, 258
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 7. Pambert, 253
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 11. Phase II Pan Grove, 248

PAN AROUND THE NECK

1. T.C. Skiffle Bunch, 264
2. St. James Trinidad, 262
3. Scrutiny Pan Grove, 262
4. Pan Jammers, 245.5
5. Woodbrook Modernaires and Chord Masters, 234
6. Trinidad Nostalgic, 224

Eustace strong contender

THE CHAMPIONS of Carnival were expected to be crowned last night at the Dimanche Gras show at the Queen's Park Savannah, in Port of Spain. These were expected to be champions in calypso and the King and Queen of Carnival.

However, at Press time, last night, the Dimanche Gras show was still in progress and the results were yet to be announced.

However, Teddie Eustace, portraying "The Big Fisherman" was a strong favourite for the King of Carnival title, while a close battle was expected in the Queen category between Pamela Gordon ("D'Inna Obe") - Mother of Creation, and Anne Robb, with "Vines of Peace."

Revellers set for earth's greatest show

RECESSION, downturn in the economy — choose whichever you want — fades into oblivion today and tomorrow, as Trinidad and Tobago celebrates the 85 version of Carnival — "the greatest show on earth."

From 4 a.m. today Kidie Carnival will be officially ushered in by Mayor of Port-of-Spain, Councilor Stephen Saragat, who formally opens the J'ouvert celebrations at Independence Square.

But long before this time revellers — citizens and our foreign guests alike — will take to the streets after leaving the various "chance venues" to engage in the preliminary "jump-up" in preparation for the two days of intense "jamming."

Last night, one of the biggest pre-Carnival shows took place at Queen's Park Savannah, in Port-of-Spain, with the staging of the National Calypso Monarch competition, the King and Queen of the Bands — all wrapped into an exciting package called Dimanche Gras.

After the J'ouvert celebrations, attention will be focused on the Parade of the Bands at five venues in Port-of-Spain, the two main centres being, of course, Queen's Park Savannah and Independence Square.

Savannah Park, in San Fernando, is the focal point of the celebrations in South Trinidad, with Mayor of San Fernando, Hakeem Husein, performing a similar role in opening the J'ouvert programme.

MAIN INGREDIENTS

Two major competitors will be the main ingredients today and tomorrow: Band of the Year and the Road March title.

In a year marked with what some people have described as a "good one" for smutty competitors, the bands are, obviously, front-runners in this keenly-contested battle.

These include "Suck Me! Suck Me!" by Cray's "Me! Fighting" by Bailey, "Rock Me!" by Roseman and tunes by Sparrow and Kitchener.

The other title to be settled is the Band of the Year, with all the big bandleaders laying strong claims this time around.

Children got their last opportunity to "play themselves" yesterday, when the Downtown Carnival Committee (DCC) staged its Kidies' Carnival at Independence Square.

Like Saturday's similar venture, yesterday's showing could not be compared with those of previous years.

Traffic regulations have gone into operation in Port of Spain and other areas in the country, designed

Guardian

It's Jour Ouvert and mas' action

THE 85th edition coverage of the Jour Ouvert jump up and Monday Carnival in the "GUARDIAN" tomorrow. Get all the scintillating photos of this annual Trinidadian festival tomorrow.

In "Theatre 'Life'" JUDY STINE 7 says "Street Theatre could be a winner here. And the usual informative columns high lighting events in the region are also there."

Don't miss "LATIN LINE" and "CARIBBEAN SPOTLIGHT" — And the big DOLLARWORD is \$3.90.



AFTER FOUR YEARS at the top rung of the pan around the neck category, Pan Jammers were finally dethroned by Skiffle Bunch on Saturday night. The smile on the face of the female pan leader clearly demonstrates that she knew that Skiffle Bunch were on the right track. Photo by Noel Saldaña.

DCC gears for 'super' programme

DOWNTOWN CARNIVAL COMMITTEE (DCC) is gearing for a "super" 1985 Carnival celebrations. Mr. Vernon Modeste, Secretary of the DCC, cultural arm of Port-of-Spain City Council, in making this statement yesterday, said:

"Despite all the talk about recession and the downturn in the economy, nothing would interfere with the greatest show on earth."

Mr. Modeste spoke to the "Guardian" while one of the DCC's biggest programmes was taking place at the Kidies' Carnival.

An appreciative audience witnessed the event from the DCC. Indeed, the square stand and from the bleachers.

The Council's '85 Carnival festivities swing into full gear today with the J'ouvert celebrations due to be opened by Mayor of Port of Spain, Councilor Stevenson Saragat.

Later in the day, the Parade of the

Bands will be staged from 1 p.m. Mr. Modeste, the youngest Councilor a few years ago, added:

"We have taken steps to ensure that patrons enjoy the maximum benefits for their money. Toilet facilities, we think, are adequate. There is also a well-stocked bar and cafeteria."

Mr. Modeste appealed for all masqueraders to make an early start since at the Downtown Venue, especially during today's Parade of the Bands.

He explained that in the past, bands always came on Independence Square too late on Mondays, sometimes as late as 3 p.m.

"All in all, we have put together, I believe, a good programme for patrons. The rest is now up to the masqueraders to do their part in making it a success, which they have never failed."

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