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PANORAMA ROW FLARES AGAIN

By SELWYN CARR,
Social Affairs Reporter

YET another steelband row developed yesterday on the eve of the 1975 Panorama finals. And it was all because of a tie between two bands, each gaining 234 points.

So serious did the issue flare up that officials of the Alcoa Boys Town Steelband of Carenage led by its adviser Mr. Hugh Borde, sought legal advice and threatened to take immediate court action to restrain the joint Carnival Development Committee (CDC) — Pan Trinbago pan festival from being staged tonight at the Queen's Park Savannah during the Dimanche Gras show.

From all appearances, however, the matter seemed settled after an emergency meeting of the executive of Pan Trinbago under the chairmanship of Mr. Melville Bryan, secretary of the pan body. The executive took a decision that the Boys Town band be included among the eight finalists chosen by a panel of judges after Friday night's show.

The squabble emerged when representatives of the eight bands went to the CDC office on Queen Street yesterday morning to draw for positions in which they will play in tonight's show.

It was then discovered that Boys Town placed ninth with 231 points while Ju-C Antillean All Stars and L.J. Williams Nu-Tones gained 234 points each.

Contended

Mr. Borde contended that since there was a tie, the band next in line must automatically be included among the eight finalists.

Following hurried consultations with Mr. Edgar Gaston Johnston, QC, disclosed Mr. Borde, a delegation of the band went to the CDC office to make a formal protest but was advised by Mr. Prince Cumberbatch, secretary of the CDC, that the matter should

be taken up by Pan Trinbago. After the panbody's meeting a letter with the decision to include Boys Town was dispatched to Mr. Ivan Williams, chairman of the CDC, who could not be reached for comment on the development.

According to the positions drawn for the finals, L.J. Williams Nu-Tones will play first, followed by Trintoc Invaders, Ju-C Antillean All Stars, NBC Stag Fonclaire, Carib Tokyo, TTEC Power Stars, Y. De Lima Blue Diamonds, Maritime Life Hatters and Alcoa Boys Town, which agreed to play last.

The breakdown of points

awarded the finalists: TTEC Power Stars (269); NBC Fonclaire (260); Maritime Life Hatters (254); Trintoc Invaders (248); Carib Tokyo (246); Y. De Lima Blue Diamonds (236); Antillean All Stars and L.J. Williams Nu-Tones (234 each); and Alcoa Boys (231).

Coveted

Of the 16 bands in the semi-finals three were selected from Thursday night's performance and the remaining five from Friday.

Solo Harmonites, three-time winner of the coveted competition in the five-year

span 1970-74, is out of the finals. So too is Curepe Scherzando. And not surprising because Solo's performance before thousands of people was nothing short of disappointing, with its rendition of Kitchener's "Streaker", which had a touch of classics in it.

However, most people felt that Scherzando's performance warranted inclusion in the finals. Even Mr. John McKarm, a member of the band, was at pains to know why it did not make the finals.

With the stage all set for the countdown, eight queen's will parade at tonight's show. They are in order of appearance, Joan Massiah, a

"Hawaiian Sea Food Cocktail" from the band "A La Carte"; Karen Innis-Ruiz as "Burst of Colour" from the band "Signs, Lines and Designs"; Dawn Ramlal as "Queen of the Sun Dancers" from "A Tribute to American Indians"; Thais Hart as "Jamette Woman" from "Whe Whe"; Jean Assing as "Dawn in a Celestial Garden" from "Solar Reflections"; Tessa John as "Lady Keeper of the Ivory" from "Circus Follies"; Marilyn Henry as "Nylon Pool" from "We Kindah People" and Agnes Charles as "The National flower of Trinidad and Tobago."

In the Calypso King contest which also takes place during the Dimanche Gras show eight calypsonians, including three female singers will vie for the title.

The finalists are Calypso Rose, Singing Francine, Singing Diane, Lord Kitchener, Mighty Composer Mighty Power, Mighty Shadow and the Mighty Bomber, who came in when the Mighty Sparrow withdrew after an incident last Monday.



Panmen looking over the score sheet at the CDC's offices yesterday.

Girls in the big calypso battle



ROSE

CALYPSO ROSE, this year's Calypso Queen, is considered by her fans the undoubted Calypso Queen of the World. Noted for her racy, bouncy showmanship, Rose it is generally felt, will take the crown this year.

For the past few years she has been a regular face in the Dimanche Gras finals. However, she has never made it into winners' row. Her big tune this year has been "Do Dem Back" which is also a likely contender for the road march title.



FRANCINE

SINGING FRANCINE, took the Calypso Queen title in 1973. Since then she has not contested for that title. Considered a tough competitor to Calypso Rose, each season, Francine's tunes have been crowd-pleasers.

The judges may have listened to her call, because last year she made a call for the inclusion of women in the finals.

This year her "St. Peter Say" and "It's A Shame" may well earn her that position. She is seen as a clean, lively performer and, probably, the sort the judges may conclude, is appropriate for the crown.



DIANE

SINGING DIANE has been described by many as the most promising young calypsonian. Since her entry on the calypso scene two years ago, she has made a number of "firsts".

She was the first calypsonian to make it to the savannah finals in her first season — last year. She was also the first female to make the Buy Local Competition finals.

What are her chances? Her "Mammy Leh Me Go" has met favour with audiences and pre-Carnival fetes.