

# WHAT OUR READERS SAY... WHAT OUR READERS SAY...

## Calypsoes only at Steelband

### Panorama

THE EDITOR: Ray Holman and Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe are indeed experts in the field of pan music and are undoubtedly super pan arrangers having now produced several classics on steel, their latest being 'Odyssey In Steel' (by Pandemonium) and 'Pan In a Rage (by Phase 2).

I feel, however, that if Pan Trinbago and the CDC authorities continue to allow these 'own compositions' to be played at our Panorama shows, then gradually, we will see the dying of these pan spectacles and I am certain that no real Trini, indeed no one at all, would like to see this event taking place.

I did not attend the Panorama Finals at the Queen's Park Savannah on 28/02/81 but watched the entire show on television. After hearing the comments made by Holman, Sharpe, Catelli's captain and several others, in their interviews with Dalton James Narine for TTT, I felt obliged

to share a few views with other pan lovers, as I am quite sure that there are many others who feel that we should have CALYPSOES ONLY AT STEELBAND PANORAMA.

In his interview with Dalton Narine, Ray Holman mentioned that in Brazil's Rio Carnival, each band plays its own music, but may I point out to him that if this happened in Trinidad's Carnival it would be real 'ole mas'.

Imagine 12 steelbands in the Panorama finals, each playing its own composition! Do you think that the North Stand and the Grand Stand would be packed to capacity? It will prove to be a very interesting exercise should one decide to take a poll on this score — CALYPSOES ONLY AT PANORAMA VERSUS

CALYPSOES & CLASSICS (INSTRUMENTALS) AT PANORAMA!

AFTER Phase 2 performed, Holly Betaudier's comment was I'd like to take them to a Jazz Festival" — I agree with Holly — because that's where they belong!

In his interview with Dalton Narine, Catelli's captain said in selecting their Panorama tune' (UNKNOWN BAND), serious consideration was given to crowd-participation, involvement and enjoyment — can this be achieved with an own composition?

Hardly likely, if not impossible, and who can argue with Catelli now — they are undisputed champions! Of

course the judges may try to convince one that no points are awarded for favourable crowd reaction but may I suggest that the supreme judge is the audience, for indeed "VOX POPULI, VOX DEI EST".

During our Carnival celebrations, to attempt to separate 'Calypso' from 'Steelband' is like attempting to separate 'Crab' from 'Callaloo' and whilst this is possible, digestion certainly isn't as sweet!

Carnival in Trinidad is that time when steelband and calypsoes go hand in hand and whilst I have nothing but admiration and respect for Holman and Sharpe, I feel that these classics would be better suited to Queen's Hall, not the Panorama stage in the Big Yard.

So, Ray, Boogsie and others, hats off to you revolutionaries in pan music, but please, not at Steelband Panorama.

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