

Phase II protests Panorama draw 'Boogsie' threatens court action

By PETER RAY BLOOD

THE leader of the reigning Panorama champion, Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, has vowed to take Pan Trinbago to court if it doesn't rescind a decision to have his band draw for position in the 1989 Panorama finals.

Sharpe, the musical director of Phase II Pan Grove is angry because a Pan Trinbago meeting held on January 8 decided to change the rule under which the defending Panorama champion chooses its playing position on the night of the Panorama finals.

An irate Sharpe told the *Express*, "The winning band has been given the honour of selecting its own position in the final since 1978. I don't mind if this decision was arrived at after the 1988 Panorama competition, or during last year. It's almost as though there are forces out there trying to sabotage the efforts of Phase II Pan Groove and myself from achieving a historic third consecutive victory in Panorama. I intend taking Pan Trinbago to court to have this decision revoked."

In response, Pan Trinbago president Owen Serrette said: "At a general meeting held at the San Fernando City Hall on January 8 to discuss Panorama '89, a motion was moved and a decision taken that the defending champion steelband, seeing that it was already privileged by having a bye into the final, should draw for its position. The motion was passed unanimously by the general membership of Pan Trinbago."

Boogsie asked: "How come when Desperadoes, All Stars and Renegades had their chances at making the hattrick, this rule was never introduced?"

He said: "Now it's my turn to achieve this feat, this cock-eyed law comes up just so. What upsets a lot of people in Panorama is the fact that they can't get over the fact that Phase II has proven them wrong about the fallacy that a steelband cannot win Panorama with its own composition."

Boogsie added: "There has been talk since last year from other bands, that Boogsie and Phase II must be stopped at all costs from achieving that hattrick in Panorama."

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