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Disqualified Phase II say they have...

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A case in point

By TERRY JOSEPH

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MEMBERS of Phase II Pan-Groove Steel Orchestra are fuming over the band's disqualification from last Saturday's "Pan on the Move" competition in Point Fortin, particularly because they were led to believe that the band won all categories of the contest.

Last year's winners, Exodus, again won the overall competition, bringing to four the number of times they topped the contest and placing them equal (in that regard) with arch-rivals Witco Desperadoes.

But Phase II Pan Groove members are saying that Exodus came in second and only now occupies the top berth because the organisers disqualified Phase II long after the band performed.

One judge told the *Express* yesterday that the panel with which he worked was not told that Phase II was disqualified and the band was actually marked.

"No one told us anything," he said, "although we were told beforehand and it is in the rules that any band which has more than 60 players would be disqualified, but at the time no one told us not to mark Phase II."

But Erslyne Blackett, speaking on behalf of the organising committee, told the *Express* that Phase II Pan Groove had fielded 68 members, eight in excess of the maximum agreed upon by the bands.

Citing Rule 3(g), which deals with penalties for exceeding the stipulation, as the basis

for the committee's disqualification of Phase II, Blackett said the band would receive appearance fees for performing at all three competition venues.

Members of the Phase II who spoke to the *Express* yesterday said that at no time did any official of the South Central Region of Pan Trinbago caution their band about having too many players.

"In any event, it is a contest where you play on the public roadway and even down in Market Square, you could hear MC Phillip Simmons begging people to come out of the band," they said.

"This is a situation where anybody armed with an iron could walk into the band and start beating and in any event no one ever came to say that we had extra people.

"Imagine, we beat at three different locations and no one says that we have extras, but at the time of giving out the results, we suddenly hear that we were disqualified," they said.

Richard Forteau, secretary of Pan Trinbago, said the Central Executive could not comment on the matter until such time as they had gotten the score-sheets from the South Central Region.

How they placed

There was a three-way tie for first place and a two way tie for fourth position in the 1986-tune competition.

1. Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars, Exodus and Vat 19 Fonclaire.
4. Solo Pan Knights and the Tropical Angel Harps.

The "Bomb" competition:

1. Tropical Angel Harps
2. Exodus and Vat 19 Fonclaire
4. Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars.

For the 1996-tune competition:

1. Exodus
2. Tropical Angel Harps
3. Vat 19 Fonclaire
4. Petrotrin Invaders.

Vat 19 Fonclaire was declared best South/Central band while Exodus' Claude Forde and Michael Lucas of Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars were adjudged first and second (respectively) in the flag waving competition.

OWTU: NP must pay

THE NATIONAL Petroleum Marketing Co (NP) must pay the full cost of medical treatment for employees who have developed health complaints which could be linked to the chemical leak at its Sea Lots plant last week. This is the demand being made by the workers' union, the OWTU.

NP branch president, Linton Mason, said the union was disappointed that company officials did not meet with them on Tuesday as requested. He said the company informed the union that it was still doing research and preferred to make no more statements on the leak until its work was completed.

A chemical used to give LPG its odour, ethyl mercaptan, leaked from the plant on May 1 and fumes spread over Port of Spain. NP said the fumes were non-toxic in normal concentrations but many people complained of headaches, nausea, dizziness and burning eyes.