

US magazine 'exploited' our panmen - Goddard

STEELBANDS Association president George Goddard yesterday charged that representatives of an American magazine exploited steelbandmen last Carnival.

And he accused the Carnival Development Committee of encouraging the exploitation.

He said about three weeks ago a young American girl from the National Geographical Magazine came to him because she was interested in recording steelband music, calypso and mas' for the magazine.

"I took her," related Goddard, "to the CDC as I felt it was a matter for them but she was referred back to me."

He added: "I indicated to her that we would arrange for her to meet some steelbands but first, the association had to get legal advice as to how to approach the matter.

"She was to meet us the following day but she never turned up."

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The next time Goddard heard about the matter, he said, was Ash Wednesday.

"I read in the newspapers where the magazine had taken both pictures and recordings at the Savannah."

He then reported the matter to the CDC. A meeting was to be held last Friday between him-

self and the CDC on the issue. "But up to now," said Goddard, "I have heard nothing further."

He added: "I consider this matter to be the greatest act of exploitation against the steelband in these modern times.

"And I think it is a most disgraceful state of affairs for a government appointed committee to encourage this type of exploitation.

"I intend to get the association to take a very serious stand and strong legal action against this infringement of the rights of panmen.

"This type of thing will not be allowed in any other part of the world."

CDC secretary Prince Cumberbatch said: "There is no question of

exploitation. The magazine is a non-profit making organisation.

"Its representatives were recommended by the Tourist Board as Trinidad and Tobago would benefit greatly because of the coverage it would get.

"People from other magazines from other parts of the world were also given permission to record at the Savannah so there was no question of bias."

About the meeting with the Steelbands Association president he said: "We spoke about it and we were to get together but the chairman (CDC chairman Ivan Williams) went to Tobago for the weekend. Another meeting is to be arranged."