

'DE SPIRIT GONE'

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Carnival without pan - What next?

THAT steelbands will not be taking part in any CDC competitions tomorrow and Tuesday is now a fact of life.

But the burning question remains: How is this going to affect Carnival '79?

With Jour Ouvert a mere 24 hours or so away, people are speculating like mad on what it's going to be like.

One feeling is that the big mas bands will revel in a smooth flow on to the stage at the Savannah

and Independence Square, with no slow-moving steelbands to cause a jam.

The boycott could mean, too,

serious financial implications for steelbands in the long run, for the word is that many sponsors are unhappy about the situation.

Some sponsors have put out as much as \$50,000 to outfit their bands for the season and are looking for as much exposure as possible in return.

The "road march" title too, will be affected, since some of our top calypsonians, top tunesmith Kitch among them, literally compose right onto the pan.

There has also been talk over the years about carnival being over-commercialised and too much stress being put on the competitions.

As calypsonian Chalkdust put it, "De Spirit Gone."

The panmen have also threatened to play mas only in their own districts.

It has been said that most steelbands play sailor every year anyway and merely serve as punctuation for the parade of bands at the various competition centres. But even so, the savannah won't be the same without the pans.

So there we have it: the chance for people-- pan people any way-- to just play mas and forget all the competition and prizes and commercialism.

Carnival, they say, is a ring-down bacchanal.

This one may turn out to be a bacchanal of a different kind.

