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NEWS

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Vex over Panorama blank

South panmen stage own Pan Finals

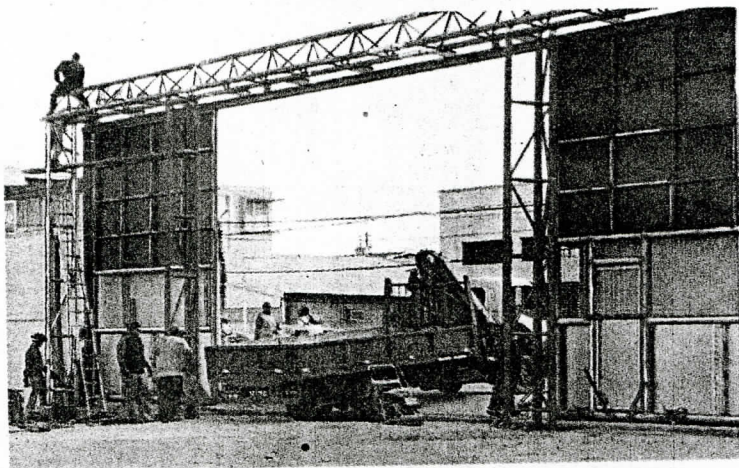
By RICHARDSON DHALAI

DAYS after several southern steel bands failed to qualify for Carnival's second biggest national show — The Panorama Finals — Pan Trinbago's South/Central Regional executive yesterday announced it will stage its own Southern Panorama finals.

The event will be held this Sunday at Skinner Park which ironically will play host for the first time ever to the Panorama Finals on February 17. At last Sunday's staging of the Panorama semis at the Queen's Park Savannah, only one South band — Lee Chong's Pan Glow (competing in the medium band category) qualified for the finals.

No other southern band qualified including traditional south power bands TCL Skiffle Bunch and NLCB Fonclaire. Obviously disappointed with the results, South/Central Regional chairman Withfield Weekes said the "South Panorama finals" is being staged to allow South pan lovers to enjoy their favourite bands.

He said events would feature some 21 conventional steel



GETTING READY: Workmen secure a metal frame at the entrance to Skinner Park in San Fernando which will host not only the Calypso Fiesta (Calypso Monarch semis) but also the south panmen "Panorama Finals" and the National Panorama Finals.

bands and six single pan bands. Asked whether the competition was as a result of the exclusion of most southern bands from the Panorama Finals, Weekes told *Newsday* the results impacted on the timing of the South competition.

He added that the staging of the competition, however, had been in the pipeline for several months.

"We met with Minister Joan Yuille-Williams on Tuesday. She graciously agreed to part

sponsor the competition. We decided to have the competition a week before the Panorama Finals so it could also act as a dry-run for the finals," Weekes said. Weekes said he expected a large turnout this Saturday and added that tickets for the show were on sale and are selling rapidly. "We have received a good response since this competition was announced, so we are expecting a large turnout, he said" Tickets for the show are priced at \$60.