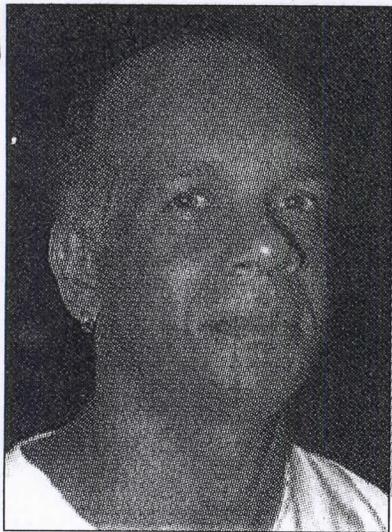


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JUNIA REGRELLO



PATRICK ARNOLD

Weekes disagrees with Patrick Arnold

'...decision to judge in panyards premature'

By YVONNE WEBB
Guardian South Bureau

CHAIRMAN of Pan Trinbago South Central Region, Withfield Weekes, has described Pan Trinbago president Patrick Arnold's announcement that Panorama preliminaries will be judged in the panyards next year, as premature.

On Monday, Weekes said he was disappointed with the decision that was made after only one meeting. He said this has pre-empted his executive from getting a consensus from its membership, which he had hoped to do on Sunday when the South Central Region holds its general membership meeting. The executive was due to meet last evening to discuss the matter.

Weekes' comments followed charges by manager of TCL Skiffle Bunch, Junia Regrello, that the South Central executive failed to consult its members on the initiative and get a consensus before an agreement could be reached.

He said there was no outright agreement because only two chairmen from the South Central Region agreed to the proposal. He said there still are a lot of issues to be dealt with before panyard judging can be implemented and, for this reason, hoped the national executive would have had more consultations with the regions before the public announcement.

Regrello, on the other hand, has applauded the initiative of the Pan Trinbago president to have the judging of Panorama preliminaries in panyards for the 2002 competition. He said it would eliminate heavy transportation costs that could be channelled into en-

hanced prizes for the pannists. He said it also would generate income for vendors, and give the bands an opportunity to spruce up their panyards to entertain their visitors.

Regrello said he is concerned three months ago a document outlining the new format was given to the executive from the various Pan Trinbago regions, with a mandate to discuss with their members to get some consensus before putting it into effect. He said the executive had enough time to sensitise their members, yet the first time he knew about the initiative was when it appeared on the newspaper.

He said the Pan Trinbago South Central executive, headed by Weekes, was voted into office in December, but to date has held one meeting.

"We had one meeting on April 27. I got there a little late, and, if this document was mentioned, it must have been in passing, but I never got a copy of the proposal to study or discuss with my members," Regrello said.

"The South Central Region does not know the view of its membership, because we were never part of the process. Southerners are concerned about what is happening here," he said, expressing dissatisfaction with the level of representation they are getting.

Weekes, in response, said: "Mr Regrello is correct in saying we did not discuss the proposal with him. The intention was to discuss with the small bands in the region first, because they are the ones that are going to be most affected, and then with the other bands. But, this announcement puts things in a different perspective."