

# Police stop Renegades at Tunapuna festival

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By TERRY JOSEPH

THE pan competition at Saturday's Tunapuna Borough Day was the major casualty when police stopped bands from playing after 10 p.m., the appointed closing time for the contest.

Two of the non-competing bands, there as guest artistes, were also prevented from playing, although for quite different reasons. The BP/Amoco Renegades Steel Orchestra was stopped by police around 10 p.m., when they attempted to perform at their location.

Exodus Steel Orchestra thought it better to not even start. Situated next to the judging point, which was opposite the St Charles Anglican

Church on the Eastern Main Road, the band was asked to wait until the evening service got done, lest the music interrupt devotions across the street. But by the time the service was over, the contest had to start immediately, lest it overrun the allotted time. Exodus officials, seeing no hope of playing before 10 p.m., therefore packed up the band's instruments and left.

With the delay incurred by respecting the church activity, the contest did not begin until shortly before 8 p.m. and while there were only three conventional steelbands and four single-pan groups listed to play, a number of rhythm sections also had to perform in that category.

Two of the three conventional bands were spoken to by police. Pan Symphony was eventually allowed to complete its performance, but police were insistent that Curepe Scherzando turn back, although the band was mere metres away from the judging point. Scherzando captain, Eden "Charlo" Charles said his members had been rehearsing for the event and were not late in getting there, so they could not just pack up and go home. The band did perform and the activity was halted immediately thereafter.

Earlier in the day, the street had been taken over by Jouvert characters, particularly mud mas which reportedly went off without a hitch.