

Fresh row in new pan contest South steelbands cry foul

ML 2040
1992

Express
960111
P.5

PANNISTS in the South/Central region of Pan Trinbago are upset over the decision to exclude steelbands in that part of the country from eligibility for prizes in a new pan competition which has a \$100,000 first prize.

Michael 'Scobie' Joseph, Chairman of the South/Central region told the *Express* yesterday that while they were happy about the initiative, it was unfortunate that South Trinidad, which had been traditionally neglected by the main pan body, was again left out of this windfall plan.

Describing Panorama as a killer to the possible growth of the steelband movement, Scobie said that



those involved were "too blind to notice", but this new incentive had come just in time to save both the small steelband and the Panorama competition.

"But it is only for those bands in the north", he said, adding that such bands were the ones with the best sponsors, anyway.

He said that after hearing about the competition his region held discussions with the NCC and was promised that they would look into a similar type incentive for bands in that area, but so far no announcement has been made

about that competition.

Describing Panorama as "Tuner-rama, Arranger-rama and Transport-o-rama", Scobie said that the competition in its present form benefited the tuners, truckers and arrangers, with the pannist getting only the crumbs.

He also lamented the buying and "outright stealing" of players from smaller and poorer bands by those orchestras who were sponsored and could afford to offer attractive incentives to players.

"There was always a perception that people in the North discriminated against their counterparts in the South and the announcements to date about this new competition seems to be doing everything to keep the perception alive", he said.