

PANORAMA

By THERON
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TAKES A BEATING

PAN TRINBAGO took a decision last night to stage Panorama despite the fact that two of their shows have been cancelled and money owed to bands by the organisation will not be paid.

The general body of the association representing steel bands took the decision after vice-president Arnim Smith explained to members that its zonal preliminaries, carded for Sunday and January 25, have been cancelled by the Carnival Development Committee (CDC) because "the North stand will not be ready in time to accommodate the crowd.

Mr. Smith told members that Pan Trinbago executives had agreed to call off the entire Panorama show because of the "adverse forces working against the interest of panmen." But the general membership voted against its decision.

He noted that more than

nine months ago it had applied for the use of the Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain, to hold five shows, which were calculated at bringing a profit to the organisation, but with only three shows it would be run at a loss.

He told them that the \$199,000 Government was considering giving to them had now been set aside and money would only be given to pay wages and other debts they had incurred last year, and to increase prizes.

Mr. Smith explained that during a meeting with CDC and Pan Trinbago, who had teamed up to run Panorama

this year, it was clearly stated that the two shows would have to be cancelled.

He noted that although he and other members of his organisation argued against the decision, they were overruled by the CDC members, on the grounds that the North stand was still under construction and would not be completed until January 28.

Mr. Smith argued that on January 21, the Red Cross will be holding their children carnival show in the Savannah and their tickets for the North stand were almost sold out...that show

was on and Pan Trinbago's show was off.

Heated arguments were raised at Pan Trinbago office on Queen Street Port of Spain and several members

came out in favour of cancelling the entire Panorama show but the trend swayed in favour of having it, after Rudolph Charles, captain of current pan champs WITCO Gay Desperadoes, spoke of his intention to beat at the Savannah regardless of what decision Pan Trinbago took.

Mr. Charles said Pan Trinbago has been owing him and other bands money since last year. He hit out strongly against the executives of the organisation and said: "I have lost faith in you."

He announced that he would approach CDC to get his money and invited other bandleaders to come along with him.

In a majority vote members agreed to stage the three-day Panorama show. They also agreed in a motion that, by holding Panorama this year, the money owed them by Pan Trinbago would automatically be wiped off.

COLDEST NIGHT IN A YEAR

TRINIDAD had one of its coldest nights on Monday when the Meteorological office at Piarco recorded a minimum temperature of 16.4 degrees Celsius (61.5 Fahrenheit).

Similar temperature was recorded in January 1976. Weathermen explained that January - February were normally the coldest months for Trinidad and Tobago. Colder temperatures were registered in January 1949 and January 1964 (16.1 degrees Celsius), January 1951 and 1955 (15.6 degrees).

The maximum on Monday was 29.2 degrees, one degree below the usual maximum which is about 30 degrees in January.

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