

PANORAMA 2012 GOING TO BE HOT HOT HOT

Battle between 'old' and 'young'

Panorama 2012 is shaping up as a battle between "old" arrangers and the young guns.

My hope is that Leon "Smooth" Edwards, Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, Pelham "PG" Goddard, Edwin Pouchet, Roland Gordon, and Ken "Professor" Philmore do not wilt under the challenge expected from the young guns.

New Yorker Andre White, 21, leads a formidable crew in Shenelle Abraham, also 21, Arddin Herbert, Seion Gomez, Duvonne Stewart and Liam Teague.

It is good to see Duvonne (bpTT Renegades) and Seion (Solo Harmonites) stepping up into the big league after playing in the minor leagues of pan, especially taking



PAN BUZZ

Steelpan news

on "big tune" Archbishop of Pan, Boogsie's original, written by GB, performed by The Lydians and recorded by "Sir" Leston Paul.

Andre (Witco Desperadoes), Arddin (CAL Invaders) and Liam (Starlift) are not new to competition at



Andre White

the top level, and are expected to come with guns blazing—also, little known Shenelle Abraham, the new music boss at San Fernando's TCL Group Skiffle Bunch.

I feel confident the "old" men have the body armour and technique to fight off any challenge.

They cannot afford to come with pop guns in this musical war; they must come with cannons to obliterate their opponents.

I've already asked the Red Cross to stand by, because bodies will fall at the Queen's Park Savannah on February 18 (final night).



The oldest living female pan pioneer, Daisy James Mc Clean of Harlem Syncopators, tells her story.



Cecil "Jimo" James, creator of a dish named "Marcaroni in Pan Sauce," is all smiles.

PHOTOS: KEITH ANDERSON

Casablanca 'greats' gather for sixties reunion

Casablanca panmen of the sixties staged a reunion and welcome home for Joe "Bunny" Knights a couple weekends ago.

The residence of Keith "Keithos" Anderson throbbed with the songs and sound steel (talk) as panmen reminisced on the bygone years.

Names like Anthony "Mauby" Weekes, Roy "Oran Jibum" Gamble, Daisy James Mc Clean, and Cecil "Jimo" James enjoyed the occasion.

Jimo saved the day with his culinary skills, after cater-

ers failed to deliver.

He cooked up a dish called "Marcaroni in Pan Sauce" which went down well with the group. The bar was stronger than the Berlin Wall and could not be breached like the New Orleans levees.

A great time was had by all, including Joe Knights who was visiting from Baltimore USA.

Missing though was Augustus Mark and Invaders' Trevor Coope, who, with Weekes and Gamble, formed a formidable double second team; the greatest for the Casablanca.

Pan song competition coming

Colin "Dollar Wine" Lucas is the defending champion of the Pan Song competition.

It is not known whether the winner will compete as Pan Trinbago in the process

of putting together a competition this year. Hooray!

I am of the view that the competition should form part of a pan dance and other attractions such as a pan picnic. Is Pan Trinbago listening?

'Raf' is back!

Birdsong Steel Orchestra is taking another chance with Raphael "Raf" Robertson.

Last year, "Raf" made his debut in steelband Panorama arranging, and his first effort fell flat like a breadfruit.

The judges also threw him out on his bald head, and it is believed he seemed confused, perhaps shocked. This led to a subsequent interview where he showed he lacked grace and humility.

Raf's 2011 effort on Do Something For Pan was described as "a soldier (Raf) going through a minefield."

Now let's see what he will do with Pan Woman. It is not easy to come up with ideas for eight minutes of pan music.

'Smooth' Sailing

Arranger of the reigning National Panorama champion Neal & Massy Trinidad All Stars, Leon "Smooth" Edwards will guest with the Sunday Vibes this Sunday, from 3-4 pm.

The normally laid-back Edwards will face questions from show host Dr Ross, and his guest, Andre Williams.

Be sure to catch "Smooth" this Sunday in a wide-ranging interview on Vibe CT 105FM.

'Boogsie' serious as a heart attack

My spies tell me that Len "Boogsie" Sharpe is serious like a heart attack, and is moving like a wounded lion. After firing off a dud missile with Do Something for Pan last year; the man is deadly with Archbishop of Pan, a tribute to the late Pat Bishop.

The song was launched in style last Wednesday at Khalid Mohammed's classy Chaud Restaurant on Queen's Park West, but Phase II Pan Groove faithful will hear it, backed by the Lydian Singers, tonight at the band's panyard in Woodbrook, from 7 pm.