CARNIVAL

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Another Pan Groove tops Panorama semis

By GARY CARDINEZ

LIGHTNING HAS struck twice during the semi-finals of the Panorama competition

Just like defending Panorama Champions (Large Band) HCL Phase II Pan Groove did in topping the semis, so to did defending Single Pan champs La Horquetta Pan Groove, who swept aside all competition during the semi-finals contested on Saturday.

It was at about 2.25 am yesterday when Pan Groove, playing in position 31, lined up before the judges with a cold breeze blowing across Victoria Square in Port-of-Spain.

Before the players got into their rendition of Duvonne Stewart's arrangement of "Johnny," the burly arranger had them exercise their fingers and warm up their hands.

Sitting in the stands, their action looked like an aerobics class to the amusement of the audience, but when the pannists started, amusement turned to amazement Pan music flowed like hot lava.

From the introduction of the song into the first verse, Stewart had his players perform like they were in a show and for the next six minutes, La Horquetta Pan Groove thrilled the large crowd and leaved the judges in no doubt as to who the winners of the semi-finals were. For their effort, La Horquetta were awarded 267 points – 85 more than their nearest rival.

Before La Horquetta's performance, Marsicians of Arima put in a good performance of Marlon White's arrangement of Kitchener's "Bees Melody. "

PAN GROOVE TOPS: La Horquetta Pan Groove players caught in the moment delivering their winning composition at the Panorama semi-finals (Single Pan category) on Saturday. The defending champs grabbed first place in the semis.

After them Gonzales Sheikers playing in position ten, also performed well with their rendition of a Clive Telemaque arrangement of "Sugar Boy."

Hope Pan Groovers of Tobago provided the audience with one of the cleanest rhythm sections of the night as they played "Doh Back Back." They were followed by Cocorite West Wind whose rendition of Victor Antoine arrangement of "Johnny," placed them in the top three.

At 10.30 pm on Saturday, one of the largest bands on the night the TT Defence Force took to the stage dressed in bright yellow. They gave a spirited performance of Terrence "BJ" Marcelle's arrangement of Shurwayne Winchester's "Ah Cyah Wait." This band also put on a show for the audience dancing and singing while they played and this landed them in second place.

The youthful Harlem Syncopators led by Daisy Mc Clean received loud applause at 1.10 am when they were introduced by the MC Harlem did not disappoint.

Their rendition of Gerald "Bellies" Charles version of De Fosto's "Pan Lamentation" was well received.

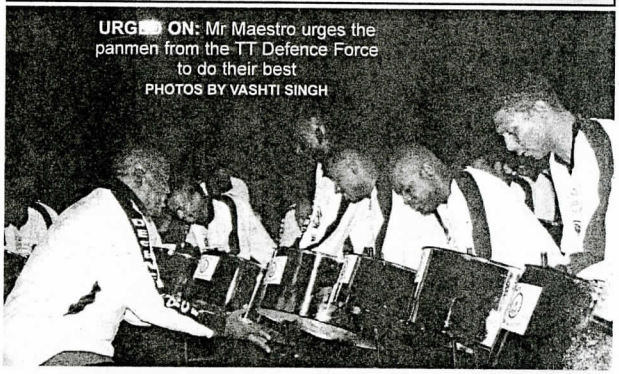
Syncopators made way for Peake Yacht Services Scrunters Pan Groove whose players did justice to Seion Gomez's arrangement of Poser's "Ah Tell She." Once again there was much drama to go along with the pan playing and this band ended up in the fourth position.

Patrons who stayed around after La Horquetta Pan Groove were able to hear D Original Woodbrook Modernaires interpret Douglas Redon's arrangement of "Sugar Boy" with smooth playing making their early morning wait something to treasure.

SINGLE PAN FINALISTS

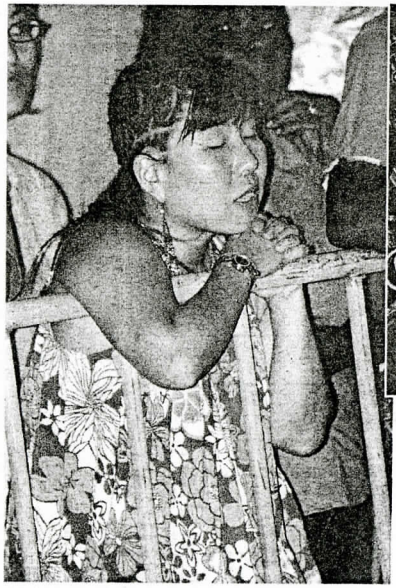
FOLLOWING is the list of the single pan teams which qualified for the Panorama Finals which comes off on Wednesday night at the Queen's Park Savannah.

1st	La Horquetta Pan Groove	267 pts
2nd	T&T Defense Force	258.5 pts
3rd	Cocorite West Wind	257 pts
4th	Peake Yacht Services Scrunters Pan Groove	256 pts
5th	Marsicans	255.5 pts
6th	Gonzales Sheikers	250 pts
7th	Pan On The Move	249.5 pts
8th	D Original Woodbrook Modernaires	248.5 pts
9th	Nu Pioneers Pan Groove	244 pts
10th	La Creole Pan Groove	242.5 pts
11th	Hope Pan Groovers	241.5 pts
12th	Harlem Syncopators	240.5 pts
13th	Ice Water Pan Ensemble	240.5 pts
14th	San Juan East Side Symphony	240 pts
15th	Arima All Stars	239.5 pts
16th	Angostura Woodbrook Playboyz	238 pts



URGE ON: Mr Maestro urges the panmen from the TT Defence Force to do their best

PHOTOS BY VASHTI SINGH



PAN LULLABY: Not everyone in the crowd at Victoria Square were energised by the pan music as this woman was caught taking a nap on an iron railing, probably dreaming of J'ouvert and Panorama Finals.