

# YOUNG PAN EXPERTS SAY STEELBANDS 'NOT PROGRESSIVE ENOUGH'

# The 'Phase 2' revolution

By ANDY PITMAN

LAST year, more than a dozen very young men picked up their drumsticks and walked out of the panyard of CIBC Starlift, one of the top steelbands in Trinidad.

Asked why they quit, they said simply that the popular Panorama champions were "not progressive enough".

In other words, the lads found themselves to be too good to play in any steelband in the country.

With revolutionary zeal they quickly formed their own band, appropriately named "Phase Two" and began arranging what they call "good music".

## Disguise

For Carnival, they're coming out on the road with a steelband and a mas' that is quite unlike other steelbands and mas'.

The mas', first of all, is called "We The People and will be a big disguise party in which costumes may be in the range of anything. At least there's



only one requirement on the part of the members which is that they must give an indication of what they'll be playing so that the organisers may try to figure out just how to sectionise the band.

The organisers who plan



Phase Two at practice

to cater for 400 masqueraders expect it to be a colourful band, "because of the scope given to members. In this way, we believe there'll be a lot of everyday threads on display."

## Business

Secondly, the whole arrangement of the steelband has been changed.

There is no leader, no heirarchy. There's only a manager, Peter Aleong, who will handle business, "because we believe pan is

a business concern", together with an administrative officer. They explained: "We want to do away with the dictator image".

And Phase Two has got two new inventions - a triple tenor and a seven-bass instrument - both designed by one of the band's Tuners, Lennox Glean.

Then of course, the band boasts of a different type of pan music.

One spokesman explained the Phase Two style:

"The steelband move-

ment has been stagnant for the last few years and has had no appeal to the youths That's why the youths dig more foreign music than local.

"We have not been satisfied with the local music and we have not been satisfied with the range of the pans. So we intend to amplify our instruments.

## Versatile

"Take for example Lennox Sharpe, one of the members and probably the best-known pan-beater alive today. If you take such a good man and put him to play with six or seven less expert players, you're only restricting his talent.

"When we amplify the pans, we'll have our bunch of versatile members each being able to do his own thing on his own instrument."

Apart from the Monday

presentation, Phase Two will be supplying music on Carnival Tuesday for Irvin Mc Williams' band - Mama look ah mas'."

The Phase Two headquarters is located on Hamilton Street in Woodbrook.

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