

Taking pan back to the people a success

By DEBRA
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TRAFFIC snarled and every possible parking spot and vantage point was taken on Wednesday night as thousands of pan lovers gathered at panyards in the Woodbrook/St James area for the judging of the North Zone Panorama preliminaries.

Pan Trinbago president Patrick Arnold admitted to being shocked by the overwhelming response to the experiment to take pan back to the people via the panyards. He described the turnout as unbelievable and said Pan Trinbago would be sticking with the new system.

Starting with about 150 people at Silver Stars panyard on Tragarete Road, the crowd swelled to thousands by the time judges reached the Phase II base. Judges had difficulty

entering some panyards because of the size of the crowd.

Following Silver Stars' rendition of De Posto's "Fire Storm", arranged by Edwin Pouchett, the pan aficionados, who appeared pleased with the performance of the 65 players, soon hustled on foot or taxi to hear BWIA Invaders.

A massive audience turned up at the Queen's Park Oval for Ken "Professor" Philmore's arrangement of his "Me-Lange". Invaders' management made a wise choice in using the Oval as the panyard across the road could in no way have accommodated the masses who turned up.

Even the bar was sold out.

The crush thickened at Starlift's panyard and many had to take in the band's performance of Skatie's "Dr Mannette", arranged by Ray Holman, from outside the panyard enclosure.

Next, the crowd hurried over to the nearby Phase II's yard but found that thousands more had "taken in front" and had already positioned themselves there.

Arranger Len "Boogsie" Sharp led the 100-strong band through the rendition of Natalie Yorke's "Do What you Want" and the thousands cheered loudly when Phase II completed its ten minutes.

Power Stars ended the night with Scanty's "Play Anything" arranged by Brian "Bean" Griffith.

Faced with huge crowds, the Pan Trinbago president said the organisation and the bands would have to be better prepared for next year's competition.

He pointed out that bands now had an opportunity to make money as they could charge an entrance fee.

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