

Arnold back as pan boss

By TERRY JOSEPH

AT THE end of a gruelling day that saw Pan Trinbago's triennial convention, annual general meeting and election of a new executive, Patrick Arnold was returned for a second three-year term as president.

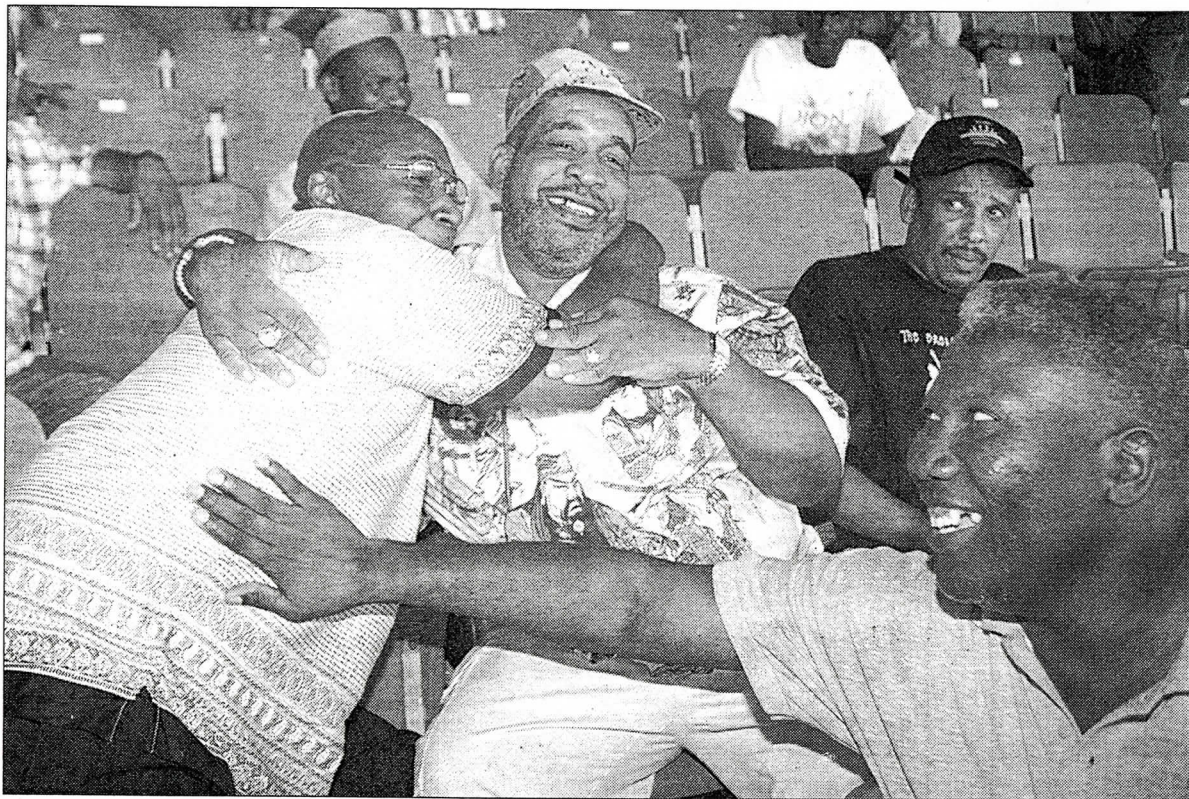
Arnold had been the target of a robust challenge by Nestor Sullivan, a former Pan Trinbago education officer and now manager of InnCogen Pamberi Steel Orchestra.

When the ballots were in, Arnold nearly doubled Sullivan's votes, beating him 153 to 80.

Keith Byer, who served under Arnold as vice-president, was also returned to that position, albeit in a much closer race, pipping Franklyn Ollivieri of Phase II Pan Groove by a mere five votes.

Arnold, who never exuded anything but confidence that he would be returned to office, told the *Daily Express* he would have stepped down, but for the attacks on his ability and character that came from the challenging team.

"I stayed because the pannists had prevailed upon me to stay in office for a second term and



RE-ELECTED President of Pan Trinbago **Patrick Arnold** receives a congratulatory hug from former president **Arnim Smith**, at their convention to elect officers in the forecourt of the Queen's Park Savannah yesterday. **Photo: KENRICK BOBB**

judging from their responses at the election, the clear majority of them were pretty confident that I could continue to make a contribution to the steelband movement," he said.

Arnold said despite the barbs thrown at his executive for its effort

during the 1997-2000 term, pannists had been able to appreciate the leaps that the movement made, both in terms of the individual pannists and the bands.

In a *Sunday Express* interview published yesterday, Arnold noted some of the achievements

under his watch and said pannists and band delegates would have at least those events upon which to reflect when the voting started.

"We have staged a successful World Steelband Music Festival and functioned as sponsor of the first Inter-

national Conference on the Science and Technology of the Steelpan, which was held at the same time," Arnold said.

"Those activities, we think, rank for serious international attention in the areas of marketing of the instrument and education at a serious level."

Under Arnold's stewardship, Pan Trinbago raised Panorama prize money from \$38,000 to \$150,000 this year and introduced a number of new contests, designed to spread the appreciation of pan music outside of the immediate Carnival environment.

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