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Despite hiccups the show goes on...

ML1040

Merrytones tops the small bands

By JOAN RAMPERSAD

DESPITE THE hiccups with the new venue for the National Panorama semi-finals which took place yesterday, at the south western side of the Queen's Park Savannah, the show went on smoothly under the sweltering sun much like other Panorama semi-finals in the past.

One of the major problems yesterday was a lack of parking arrangements for patrons. President of Pan Trinbago, Patrick Arnold was unaware of the situation but admitted

it went unnoticed in the planning stages.

As a result a number of patrons could not enter the Savannah because of the police road blocks and were forced to park on the outskirts of the venue.

Arnold was also peeved that overhead covering for part of the Paddock area was not yet in place and extra bleachers for the same area were also not there.

Because of a lack of proper facilities for the print media, *Newsday* was personally assisted by the Culture

Minister Joan Yuille-Williams to cover the event.

Despite the fact that the show started one hour and 15 minutes later than the scheduled start time of 9 am, it ran without further interruption.

Yuille-Williams who spoke with *Newsday* before the start of the show said she found the ambience of the new venue marvellous and said she was comfortable that the show will be enjoyed by all in attendance.

Asked if she felt the same venue could be used for the hosting of the King and Queen of Carnival compe-

titions and the Dimanche Gras Show, Yuille-Williams said that she will discuss the idea with the National Carnival Bands Association to find out if they will be comfortable with that.

As the show got underway, among the bands creating the biggest impressions were Pan Elders playing De Fosto's "Pan Lamentation," Casablanca with Sparrow's "Doh Back Back," Southern Marines and "Oh Trinidad" and Arima Golden Symphony with "Sharing Licks composed by Len "Boogsie" Sharpe

and arranged by Terrence BJ Marcelle.

At the end of the of the small conventional bands competition, Merrytones emerged the winner with 277 points, second was Pan Elders with 273 points, third, Tamana Pioneers with 262 points, fourth, Petrotrin Siparia Deltones, fifth Crescendoes Musical and sixth a tie with Casablanca and Southern Marines Steelband with 253 points.

President Maxwell Richards arrived in time for the medium bands category semi-finals at 3 pm.