

ENTERTAINMENT

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# Pan Trinbago dragging its feet with prize money

By GARY CARDINEZ

**PAN ARRANGER/COMPOSER Brian "Bean" Griffith is crying foul on Pan Trinbago for not coming up with prize money he won since Carnival 1998.**

Griffith told *Newsday* he won a Panman/composer tune that played the most at competitions which carried a prize of \$5,000 with his song "Behave Yourself" and since then he has had no end of trouble to collect his winnings.

A somewhat disturbed Griffith said, "I have checked Pan Trinbago's Treasurer Melvyn Bryan and President Patrick Arnold to no avail.

"Arnold admitted it was an oversight on the organisation's part and it would be corrected but that's only talk. I fed up of going to Pan Trinbago for what is rightfully mine.

"It is interesting that this year Pan Trinbago

held a Pan Song competition and the winners got paid but I still waiting.

"The executive of Pan Trinbago keeps on treating people with scorn. While I need the money to continue to produce work, I feel it's the principle involved and I will not give up."

On a brighter note Griffith feels he is moving in the right direction; his songs have been leaving their mark in the industry.

He is the composer of songs like "Can't Touch This", "Advantage", "Crackshot", "Behave Yourself" and "Trini Know How".

The unassuming Griffith has just come back from Sweden where he attended a 14-day workshop. He also toured Japan and Hong Kong, playing pan with Tony Rose, Anthony Guppy and Andy Sheafe for Showboat, out of California.

He sees great potential for the national instrument in Japan and admits, "The people out there

have accepted it; they love the sound and appreciate the variety of music played. (Calypso, Jazz, Classics, Bossanova and Latin).

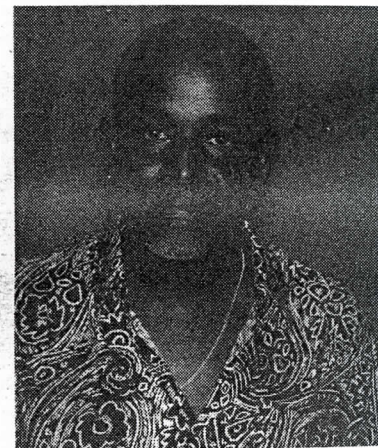
Griffith is no Johnny come lately in the pan world; he has been composing since the early '70s for Moods Pan Groove in New York and when he came back home in the '80s he began working with Players Symphony, TTEC Power Stars, Belmont 5th Dimension, Scrunter, Pan Groove, Woodbrook Playboys and other Pan Round The Neck bands.

He is now the full time arranger for TTEC Power Stars, an orchestra which he says is very youth oriented with most of the players coming out of Mucurapo Junior and Senior Secondary schools.

After 39 years in the pan music business, Griffith feels the music could go places. He intoned, "It is the music of the 21st century but it just has to be marketed the right way."

He feels there should be a musicians union to help take the players forward. Members of the movement feel Pan Trinbago is all but a union and this executive of the pan body is two different entities; it is about time panmen start seeking their own interest.

Griffith admits his main focus is getting the music out there for people to appreciate the artform.



BRIAN "BEAN" GRIFFITH

songs for 2000, "Pan Calling Me" arranged by Leston Paul with lyrics by Alvin Daniel and sung by Scanty out of New York.

"On De Drag" is the second song arranged by Pelham Goddard and sung by Steve Sealy.

Griffith hopes that Steve Sealy will continue his successful run as he did with "Trini Know How".

A smiling Griffith said, "Trini Know How" was the first Pan song to compete in a Soca Monarch competition, it also came second in the Pan Song competition and was sung in parties and the calypso tent.

"On De Drag" is a song dedicated to all the panmen who play their music on the pitched area before