



Gil Scott-Heron's biting criticism and commentary of the political scene and the high energy playing of his band provided an evening

of entertainment for the crowd that turned out at Starry Night Saturday night. Photo by Richard J. Brown

Patients Wounded By Cutting Remarks

Can a patient be wounded by a surgeon's cutting remarks? "Certainly," psychologist Henry Bennett of the University of California claims.

"More than that," Dr. James Michel warns. "Even innocent remarks can kill."

For nearly three years Bennett, researcher in anesthesiology at UC's Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, has been playing tape-recorded messages to patients during surgery. "One point we are trying to make," he explained, "is that what you hear under anesthesia can affect you."

His work, featured in the April issue of *Omni*, drew fire from Michel of the Shaw Health Center in Los Angeles.

"Such experiments are both irresponsible and dangerous," charged Michel, who has been a family physician for nearly a decade. "Lodging an idea in a patient's mind where he can't understand and evaluate it puts his health and sanity at risk. Even innocent remarks can kill."

Although he admits that a comment like "He's a goner" can hinder a patient's recovery, Bennett said he carefully avoids negative remarks in his recordings. He has received \$6000 in grants to perform these experiments.

He began his experiments simply — by instructing anesthetized patients to touch their ear or nose during a postoperative interview. Heartened by a 75 percent success rate at this, Bennett now hopes to learn if positive suggestions can cause patients in surgery to experience decreased blood loss and a smoother heart rate.

What harm could there be in that?

"Plenty," said Michel. "One of the patients could start to feel the pain of surgery every time he touched his nose. Or a subliminal command slowing the heart rate could kick in when inappropriate. It could trigger a passing out spell in an emergency when he needs a high blood supply. If he were driving a car, the result could be fatal."

Michel cited L. Ron Hubbard's self-help book, "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health" as forbidding such experiments.

"Hubbard discovered a stimulus-response part of the mind, called the reactive mind, which turns any remark at all heard during operations or injuries into hypnotic commands," Michel explained. "Even a loud 'Sh!' heard during birth can produce a stammerer, so complete silence in the operating room is mandatory."

Finding that any conversation heard during pain and unconsciousness can produce mental aberrations and psychophysical illnesses, Michel said, Hubbard developed a way to overcome their effects through counseling. "Hubbard's discoveries," Michel explained, "have brought tens of thousands to a state called Clear — freedom from physical pain and painful emotion caused by the mind."

Having heard from many of Hubbard's readers that the research he is engaged in has already been done, Bennett affirmed, "I have respect for the psychological sophistication of Mr. Hubbard's book, but I am continuing my work." Similar studies, he added, are going on at Cambridge University, Erasmus University in Holland and the University of British Columbia.

"It's cavalier to undertake research that's likely to damage an individual," Michel snapped. "Bennett has either misunderstood something in his reading or he has a fixed idea. Hubbard has put decades of research in to this subject. Bennett is not only re-inventing the wheel, he's inventing a square one."

Free Workshops For Seniors

Seniors will receive information on home security and Medicare at a free, one-night workshop held at Alameda Community School, 2732 NE Fremont. For registration information, contact coordinator Janice Dolan at 284-1686.

Senior Home Security. Friday, May 1, 10-11 a.m. Group discussion of special security concerns of senior citizens, led by a City Crime Prevention Specialist.

Medicare Information. Friday, April 24, 10-11 a.m. (Session 1) or Friday, May 22, 10-11 a.m. (Session 2). Discussion led by Healthchoice.

Victorian Tea Party

Corliss in Wonderland — "Victorian Tea Party" will be held at Woodstock Community Center, 5905 SE 43 on Friday, May 15 from 3-4:30 PM. The fee is \$10 plus \$3 for supplies. Fancy yourself at an elegant afternoon tea! You really must come! Brief history of how the traditional afternoon tea started and description of various teas plus a sampling of a typical Victorian tea menu including finger-sandwiches, scones, and various other tea time treats. Pre-registration required.

Call 771-0784 for more information.

Senior Citizen Annual Fishing Day

The month of May is Older Americans Month. On Friday, May 29th at Sauvie Island Oak Island area on Steele Lake the Urban League of Portland, along with other providers of services to seniors, will hold its Annual Senior Citizen Fishing Derby. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m.

Each year over 300 senior citizens participate in the day's exciting activities. For them, the derby is a chance to enjoy the outdoors, mingle with old friends, meet new ones and enjoy a few hours of fishing. These are activities many seniors have little opportunity to participate in.

15th Annual Senior Citizens Fishing Derby Schedule for Days Activities

7:30 - 8:30 A.M. — Load busses at Urban League and other designated sites.

9:00 - 9:30 A.M. — Arrive at Sauvie Island

9:30 A.M. — Assist Seniors in setting up to fish (baiting, pole assignment/distribution, announce to seniors when lunch will be served)

12:00 P.M. — LUNCH

1:30 P.M. — Hold contest and pass out prizes

2:00 P.M. — Turn in loaned fishing poles. Begin loading up to leave Island

3:00 P.M. — Arrive back at pick-up sites

36th Annual Debutante Ball

On Sunday evening, June 28, 1987, Les Femmes will present approximately 20 debutantes and cavaliers at the 36th annual Debutante Ball.

Around the theme "Today's Dreams, Tomorrow's Accomplishments," these young women and men will make their public debut celebrating their high school graduations and achievements. This year, Les Femmes have the distinct honor of presenting one of the Rose Festival Princesses.

The ball will begin at 7:00 P.M. at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach with presentation at 8:00 P.M.

Drive Once a Month to Feed Elderly Once a Day

Loaves & Fishes needs drivers and runners for Meals on Wheels. With enough help, most routes can be completed within 45 minutes, and you'll be scheduled only once a month.

As volunteers start spring and summer vacations, more drivers are needed. It just takes one lunch hour a month to feed our housebound elderly once a day. Please call Loaves & Fishes, 777-2424, to volunteer.

VIRGINIA SLIMS



Menthol and Lights Menthol



You've come a long way, baby.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.

Menthol 14 mg "tar," 0.9 mg nicotine—Lights Menthol: 8 mg "tar," 0.6 mg nicotine av. per cigarette. FTC Report Feb '85.

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