

# Entertainment



## ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

Ever since he was 19, and published his first novel, *The Vulture* (his second was *The Nigger Factory*), Gil Scott-Heron has been communicating his anger, compassion and thoughtfulness through his words. The son of a Jamaican professional soccer player and a librarian, Gil began to absorb modern black poetry by men like Langston Hughes while a student at the prestigious Fieldston School in New York.

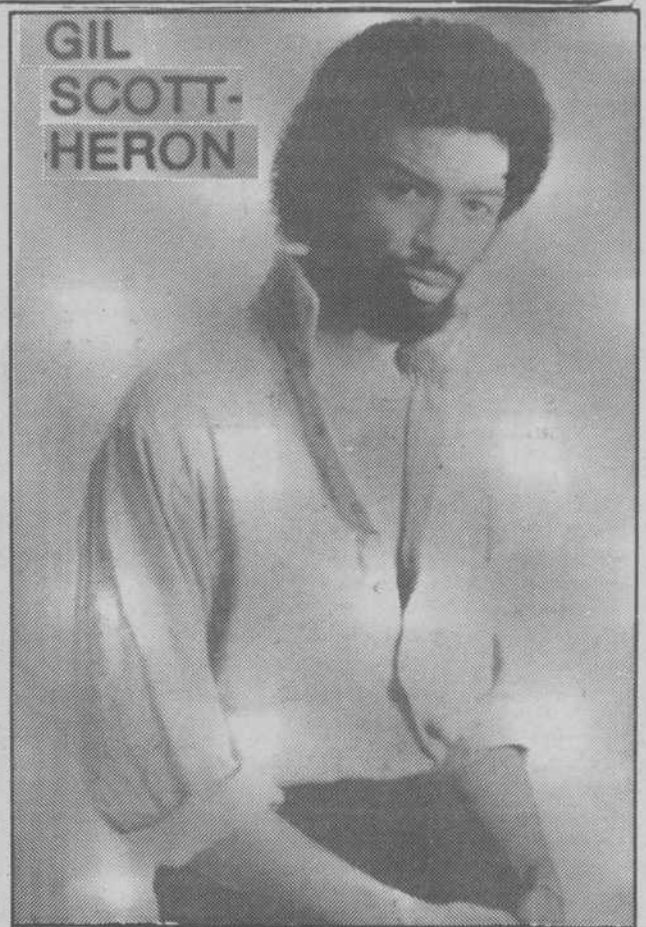
From that time until now, through his poetry and his music, Gil has become a major creative spokesman and contemporary interpreter of the wide range of black experience. The first albums that called attention to this important new clarion voice were *Small Talk At 125th And Lenox* (also the name of a Scott-Heron volume of poems), *Pieces Of A Man*, *Free Will*, and *Winter In America*. Gil Scott-Heron touched on black frustration and fury,

political unrest and repression, the heritage and unity of his people. On pieces like the classic "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" and "H2O Gate Blues" (an explicit indictment of American crimes committed during Nixon's administration), he was unafraid to name names and call for action. Eloquent and directly, he got to the nub of the problem. Other songs from Scott-Heron's early period included "Lady Dan And John Coltrane" (a tribute to two of his musical idols), "Home Is Where The Hatred Is" and "The Bottle," which dealt with alcoholism and became his first chart hit, as well as a trademark performance in concert.

His music has always been designed for impact. "Angel Dust," his outspoken stand against PCP, and his public services messages on the same subject, was an alarm that was heard throughout the country. He took a strong position against nuclear energy on "Shut 'Em Down," "We Almost Lost Detroit," and at the all-star MUSE concert in New York City.

His recording career on Arista has included some of his most impressive work: the award-winning spoken word album *The Mind Of Gil Scott-Heron*, the best-selling *Secrets*, 1980 (called his best album ever by more than one critic), *Bridges* and others, nine to date.

On the *Reflections* LP, he continues to train his vision on hard truths, while also pausing for relective moments of a different kind on songs like "Is That Jazz?" (a tribute to greats such as Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday), Bill Withers' "Grandma's Hands," and "Morning Thoughts." *Reflections* also include two pointed poems, "The Seige Of New Orleans" which grows out of Marvin Gaye's "Inner City Blues") and the explosive "B' Movie."



GIL SCOTT-HERON

Gil Scott-Heron is definitely a man of the past, present, and future. He is capable of a lot of different directions and sentiments that still come together as pieces of poetry and music.

## B.B. KING HEADS HOT SAHARA LINEUP

The Fourth of July fireworks may be over but the hot summer nights continue to sizzle in the Congo Showroom of the Sahara Hotel and Casino as the world's most famous blues singer, B.B. King, heads a great entertainment lineup that includes jazzy comedian Pete Barbutti and sensational singer-dancer Gwen Brisco.

This great talent lineup is presented twice nightly - 8 p.m. and 12 midnight cocktail shows from only \$14.95, including two cocktails - through July 17. This is one show not to be missed.

B.B. King is in his fourth decade of dogin what he does best - sing the blues like no one else is able to do. Although a Las Vegas resident, the Mississippi-born music legend rarely plays Las Vegas which makes this Sahara engagement a special treat. When King did a special one-night concert in the Sahara's Space Center convention complex last year, he drew nearly 3,000 fans, a great tribute to the world's greatest

blues singer.

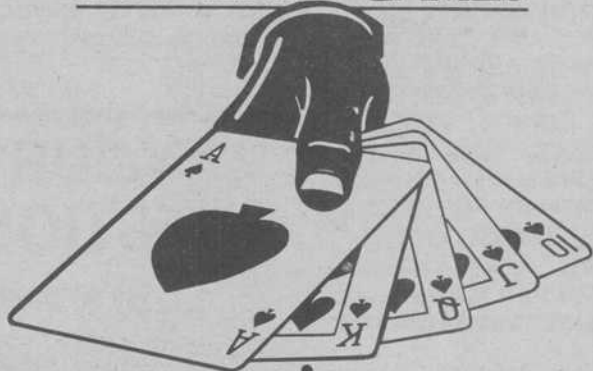
That concert, as well as the current Congo Showroom stand, proves the allure of King the stage performer. Not only does he have a unique and special way with his music, but King

also has a special way with an audience. His audiences find it nearly impossible not to stand and clap and sing along with the voice that has left its stamp indelibly on the blues.

See B.B., Page 12

### 24 HOUR POKER!

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B.B. King

Pete Barbutti

Gwen Brisco

July 5 through 17

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**SAHARA**

Hotel and Casino