

**BILLIE ROWE'S
NOTEBOOK**

**Make My Day, Point To The
Positive Afro-Amer. Family**

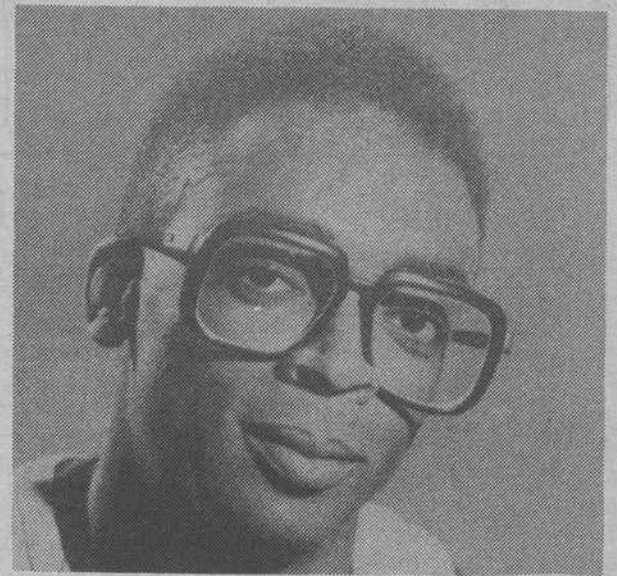
N'YORK CITY--Glad we were able to talk over the negative image of the Afro-American family that's sweeping the nation like a wild fire, before you jetted down to Jack-The-Rapper's Atlanta based 10th annual Family Affair. Because, while you're at the Airport Marriott, which Jack and crew took over, hanging out with Kool & The Gang, Little Milton, Patti LaBelle, radio and club DJs, record promotion people, gen. managers and all those others that make the entertainment world whirl, folks at Atlanta U., on the

other side of town, are gearing up to work with the U.S. Census Bureau on a study of the Afro-American Family, focussing on such subjects as family makeup, infant-mortality rates, health problems facing the elderly and the increased incident of proverty in families headed by females. According to A.U.'s Center on Health and Aging, where the staff will be housed, Dir. Wilbur H. Hatson, in addition to 12 faculty members from the schools of arts & science, business and social work there will be two staff

analysts from the Cencus Bureau on loan for the duration of the project. If successful the study will be extended until 1991. Since the group will be using data from the U.'s own demographic studies there is a chance that the Afro-American family will finally have an opportunity to defend itself against those who are ready to shut the casket door on it. Hopefully they will finely chop Bill Moyers' hatchet-job report. For example, its not our folks who spend their golden years in a nursing home, just because they're old, it is? I agree with you, Mr. R., that these constant attacks on the image of the Afro-American family are part of the subtle propaganda that keeps us mired in the quicksand of stagnation.

HAPPY ANNV'Y--50yrs

ago Jesse Owens won his four Olympic gold medals giving the mid-finger to Hitler's Aryan super-race theory. In honor of his feat, this year, the people of W. Berlin are paying tribute to him with ceremonies and gala dinner. On hand from these shores besides family were M/M Lee Archer, he's a Gen. Foods v.p., and former Olympic teammate Herb Douglas, who heads the U.S. based internationally known Jesse Owens Foundation. He also holds the same 9-to-5 title as Archer, but for spirit importer Schefflin : Co... "A Raisin In The Sun" celebration its silver annv'y. at the Village's Roundabout Theatre. As emotionally gripping as it was when debuted, there were times when I felt as if my guts were on display, especially since the audience was 95% white, but when this independent struggling American family found their silver lining I rediscovered my own... "Spike Lee Day," will be proclaimed by Andy Young, when this Morehouse grad takes his "She's Gotta Have It" to Atlanta for a premiere event that will benefit his alma mater. His next pic., port of his 3 flick deal with Island Pictures, is going to be a musical about a class reunion of "M'House men." Why do some critics insist on calling the Bro. the Black Woody Allen? If he must be categorized, why



Spike Lee

not a budding Gordon Parks... Jim Cuffee, the internat'l entrepreneur and bis. advisor to the World Confab of Mayors (WCB), and entourage are taking a deserved rest in Hawaii. It's fitting since you told me that Cuffee & Co., were kept hoppin' during the WCM Chitown conference. Because the org. means so much to him he took over the entire 36th fl. of the Hyatt Regency and had a hospitality suite that stayed open 24/7 (all day/everyday)... Ram Ramirez, who penned Billie Holiday's "Lover Man", played while Julia Steele, vocalist with Panama Francis and the Savoy Sultans, sang during Delilah Jackson's Harlem Week Senior Day Show. The theatrical

historian also gave a slide presentation of Fredi Washington's career... Hey Stevie Wondaful, me thinks you made a mistake hiring Mick Jagger's associate to help you fill those concert halls. If he doesn't recommend ads in the Afro-American press, you're in trouble.

DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T TELL YA--But while some of us are runnin' away from our R&B musical roots to pop and the newly created "crossover", them other folks are tripping over themselves to play it and claim it. There was the Anne Lennox (of the U.K's Eurythmics) duet with Aretha Franklin, Billy Joel has teamed up with his ideal Ray Charles for a song on his new LP and upstart Simply Red ("I'll Keep Holding On") lead singer Mick Hucknall, another U.Ker., has penned a couple of tunes with Lamont Dozier, who along with the Holland, masterminded many a Motown hit... On top of that the Blues Foundation, out of W.C.'s city, is sponsoring a talent contest that promises a record contract and a chance to appear on stage with B.B. King at the 7th annual Nat'l Blues Awards show. They will also receive the "Lucille" Award named after his guitar. There are over 20 categories, with a new one for best foreign blues group. Other winners will receive "Handys." The show may even be televised-- need I say more... Speaking of Bro. Ray he will be one of the year's Kennedy Center honorees. Joining him are Lucille Ball, the acting couple of Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, choreographer Antony Tudor and Yehudi Menuhin...

As usual ITS BEEN REAL nice to typesit for syndicated columnist Billy Rowe.

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