

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

ALL THAT JAZZ THAT'S NOT JAZZ

N'YORK CITY — "Jazz Beat" columnist Verne Tiejn was write correct so I quote: "If you ask the top jazz players, or this career listener, legitimate jazz is parked in the Tow Away zone. Most so called musicals, radio and TV stations, recording companies and festival promoters, masquerading under the jazz label, don't even deserve limited immunity." That is a one sample salvo in the battle noted jazz musician bandleader Panama Francis has declared against, what he terms, "The prostitutes of jazz." In this scribe's opinion, the beef would cook better on the write burner of improvising drummer's own write words, so here goes. "I guess some may wonder why I am sticking my neck out speaking about the problems of the Black musician and his music. The music labeled jazz has been very good to me. It is an art culture Black Africans gave to the world that is on a par with the classics. In March of '87 I made a 2'wks appearance at the Meridian Hotel in Paris, France. It was packed nitely and a love developed between patrons and the Savoy

Sultans. The critic from the Hot Club de France Bulletin dug the band. Upon leaving Paris I wrote him a letter thanking him for the kind words and the reception we received from the people."

"The third topic of my letter dealt with my opinion regarding the promotional rape of jazz. How promoters were hoodwinking fans of jazz, in its name. The bottom line being greed for profit. It's a crime and is doing great harm to a universal culture. Well, wouldn't you know my letter was published in the 'Hot Club Bulletin.' The next thing I knew, every one of my dates in Europe were cancelled. I expected feedback, but nothing as vicious as that. I am sure that you have some idea as to who did this, and so have I. It doesn't matter what they present at their festivals, but why mislead billing same as jazz. You can't headline B.B. King at a jazz festival. A great blues singer he is, but a jazz artist he's not. Joe Williams is a yeah because he can and does do both. One cannot just blame the promoters for this musical rape. Those who claim to love the sound and the meaning, the musicians who deviate from the notes, are the culprits. Had they

lifted their voices, instead of selling their integrity for the dollar, this beef would not be boiling now. I have already been punished for opening my mouth, but no never mind. I am just sorry for those who have to suffer because of the shouting. Welcome to the battlement." Panama Francis.

NEWS POTPOURRI — Sounds about Tin Pan Alley are that the problems of the Count Basie band were inevitable. The record will show that few such orks have survived beyond their leaders. . . . Loved that coin dropper's suggestion that Gordon's Gin award the original and genuine Sugar Ray Robinson the 25 Gs cash award earmarked for its "Black Athlete of the Year" winner. Should either Sugar Ray Leonard or Magic Johnson, who are 1-point apart, win, neither needs the cash and should be happy with the magnificent hand sculptured trophy. Such a beau geste could inspire many tilted glasses of G.G., but not while driving. . . . His indulgent wife, Ina, back home from the South with her mom, three sons, with wives, one from Paris, complete with his grandchildren and his effervescent and his effervescent daughter. Also Ed Levy's b'day and some coin summoned close friends was all the excuse Lee Archer needed to exhibit his backyard "barbie" skills. . . . Uneasy is the bank account of the rich and talented. Lionel Richie is

being sued again. This time composer Michael Frenchik legally seeking \$50,000,000 alleging copyright infringement. He has made Motown, musician Carlos Rios, a music co. and a slew of law firms partners of his legal action. He has divided his megabucks action into two parts, \$25 million compensation for punitive, and a like amount for compensatory damages. Richie's big hit, "Dancing on the Ceiling" is the melody which got him out of tune with Michael. It's a good one, too. As a single it sold in excess of a million and the album sales are said to have surpassed 4,000,000. . . . A double stroke has veteran columnist Les Matthews back in the Beth Israel Hosp. just when his salute bash was about set. . . . Arthur White, prez. United Mutual, took in the All Star baseball classic in hopes of a eye/ear discussion about his alleged addiction. . . . Harry Belafonte and Quincy Jones are sure-ins to receive N'York Urban League's '88 Frederick Douglass Award. If not, the King who's a queen, Ruth Allen, in '89, when? Few are more deserving. . . . Fred O'Neal has been quietly reelected prexy of the AAAA. That's all the power of the arts.

PEOPLE CHATTER — The wk's tipped hat is to the NAACP for its plans to also spotlight those "white" superstars, behind their God given "Black Faces" who

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THE POINTER SISTERS HEADLINE CAESARS PALACE AUGUST 12-17

The Pointer Sisters bring musical excitement to the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom August 12 through 17, in cocktail shows which also feature comedian Paul Rodriguez.

not yet titled, which is scheduled for release in early 1988.

The newest Pointer Sisters recording, however, is the single "Be There," from the movie soundtrack of "Beverly Hills Cop II."



The Pointer Sisters

Just completing an engagement in Monte Carlo, the Pointers — Ruth, Anita and June — return to Caesars on the heels of a recent rhythm & blues hit. Titled "Mercury Rising," the single was taken from their 15th career album, "Hot Together." They are also working on a new LP,

erly Hills Cop II." The song promises to enjoy the same popularity as "Neutron Dance," a top-of-the-charts single from the original "Beverly Hills Cop" film.

"Neutron Dance," like earlier Pointer Sisters favorites, "Jump," "I'm So Excited" and "Fire," typifies the incendiary rhythms and sassy lyrics which have made the trio one of the city's top headline attractions.

On stage at Caesars Palace, The Pointer Sisters and Paul Rodriguez star in nightly cocktail shows at 8:30 and 11:30. For reservations, phone the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom 702/731-7333 or 800/445-4544.

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